

Psalms 15 and 34

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Like many congregations, our church service has scripture-reading at our weekly gathering. We have scheduled it between our singing of hymns and our listening to a sermon presentation.

As the pastor, I have the opportunity to schedule the verses that are read each week. Right now I am choosing verses from the book of Psalms. Although I am not scheduling a reading from each psalm (because the book has 150 psalms), I pick selections with the intent to comfort and encourage our congregation.

Even though I know what psalm is going to be read, I still find myself moved as I listen to the message read in our church service. The words are very encouraging to my mind and heart—as we watch what is occurring in our world today.

Please let me share Psalms 15 and 34 with you.

Psalm 15:1-5—"LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; he who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change; he who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved."

Psalm 34:1-3—"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together."

Psalm 34:4-7—"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them."

Psalm 34:8-10—"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing."

Psalm 34:11-14—"Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he

may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”

Psalm 34:15-16—“The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.”

Psalm 34:17-18—“The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

Psalm 34:19-22—“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.”