

Who May Ascend into the Hill of the Lord?

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Psalm 24:1-5

In this passage, there is an important question for us to consider. We're going to notice the psalmist's answer and also see why this question is important. To do that, we're going to work backwards in our text – start at the end and move to the beginning to see what we can learn.

Why Ask the Question?

- The psalmist asked about who could ascend into the hill of the Lord – why would he ask this question? why should WE ask this question?
- To ascend into the hill of the Lord is to be in the presence of God – enjoy fellowship with Him
- Why is it desirable to be in the presence of the Lord? (v. 5) – He is the source of blessings (James 1:17); He deals righteously with us (1 Peter 4:19); He offers salvation to us (Titus 2:11)

The Character Traits Needed

- Have clean hands (v. 4) – we must do what is right (Matthew 7:21); put away sin (1 John 2:1)
- Have a pure heart (v. 4) – we must have pure motives (Matthew 5:8); watch over our heart (Proverbs 4:23)
- Do not lift our soul up to falsehood (v. 4) – not follow any other “god” (Matthew 6:24); not follow what is false (1 John 4:1)
- Do not swear deceitfully (v. 4) – speak the truth (Ephesians 4:25); be honest in all things (Proverbs 28:6)

There Are No Shortcuts

- It requires work to develop these character traits – diligence, patience, self-denial; many do not want to do this; they want another way
- Many think that if they have power/influence/resources they can secure a place anywhere (cf. Proverbs 18:16) – they offer bribes, favors, gifts, privileges, etc.; this often works to get what we want in this life
- However, this will not work to secure God's favor or a place in His holy hill – why? ... all of the earth belongs to Him (v. 1); there is nothing we can offer Him that He doesn't already have; even if we could gain the whole world, we could not use it to redeem our soul (Matthew 16:26); so we need to be ready based upon what we do in this life in service to the Lord (Matthew 16:27)

Conclusion

- So who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? – anyone IF we will be the people God wants us to be
- There is no other way – no shortcuts; no alternate routes
- Let's pursue these traits so we can enjoy the blessings and salvation that are found only in Him