

**Psalm 24: 1-10; “Welcome to the King of Glory”, A Communion Sermon prepared  
by Pastor Paul Rendall, and Delivered on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016,  
in the Morning Worship Service.**

As we draw near to the Lord’s Table once again, it is good to remind ourselves that all glory and honor are due to our Lord Jesus Christ for our becoming a Christian and for our continuing on in the Christian faith. It says in Psalm 115, verse 1 – “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Thy name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.” This is what we do whenever we come to worship God; but it is especially so when we come to remember our Lord at His Supper. “Who is the King of Glory?” The King of Glory is our Lord Jesus Christ; who someday we shall see face to face. And on that glorious day, our heads will be lifted up; if by His grace we have been His faithful servants. But as we come now to this table, we see as we read this Psalm, that we have nothing to boast of in regard to ourselves. But, on the other hand, we have very much to boast of, in regard to our Lord Jesus Christ, when we declare His kingdom and His glory. We would give Him the glory due His name today and not be silent. We would not fall short of His glory. We would declare His mighty works on behalf of our souls. We were once rebellious sinners. We are now His servants and saints. There was a time when we would just as soon not remember the name of Jesus. And now His is the best of names to us, and we would remember Him always.

In verse 7, the hearts of those who would consider Christ by faith are being described as having gates and doors. That is how they are described. As God looks at your heart He can see if you are opening the gates; He can see if you are lifting up the everlasting doors, to welcome His Son, the King of glory, in. You can tell if you are a true Christian or not, if the gates and doors of your heart are open to these 3 truths. 1<sup>st</sup> - Your heart welcomes the idea that all the earth belongs to Christ Jesus our Lord. (Verses 1 and 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> - Your heart welcomes the idea that you must have the grace of the Lord Jesus in order to be holy. (Verses 3-6) And 3<sup>rd</sup> - Your heart welcomes the idea that King Jesus should have all the glory of your salvation. As people look at your life, as one of His saints, they ought to be able to see a gate and a door to eternal life. They ought to be able to see words and actions that bring glory to Christ, and which preach the gospel to others.

**First – If you are a true Christian your heart welcomes the idea that all the earth belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Verses 1 and 2)

“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” “For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.” This is speaking of God’s possession of the earth and everything in it. This truth is not generally acknowledged by people in our day. Not only do they not believe that the Lord created the earth and the sea and all things in them, but they also do not believe that God is the owner and possessor of all things. But we should have no problem, on the basis of the word of God, in declaring to people around us that He is the Creator and Sustainer of all living things. Let us not be ashamed of all that God has done in the creation of the world, or His governance of all things. Let us not be ashamed of His providence; His righteous rule of the world, and His intervention in the physical creation to sustain it; His intervention in people’s lives to sustain them, and guide them, and govern them by His infinite wisdom and irresistible power. If God’s word plainly declares it, then why should we not declare it? If men are deceived, let us undeceive them by declaring to them that the earth did not evolve; it was created. Let us not be afraid to say that it all belongs to God and that God has been gracious to entrust its care to men.

Psalm 115, verse 16 says, “The heavens, even the heavens, are the Lord’s but the earth He has given to the children of men.” “The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into

silence.” “But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forever.” This is the response of the Christian’s heart: Thank you Lord for creating this earth and all things in it. Thank you for creating it with beauty, and order, and symmetry. Thank you, Lord, that even though man’s sin has marred your creation, that through Jesus Christ our Lord, all things are being made new. It is not your creation, Lord, that we worship. It is You, the God who made these good things for us as sinful, unworthy men and women. It is You who we worship. You have given us all things created, and you created them good.

Not only ought we to praise the Lord and give Him glory for creating the world and all things in it, but we also ought to fear Him and stand in awe of Him because of it. Turn over to Psalm 33, verse 6. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.” “He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.” “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.” “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.” Not only the Christian, but also all men are instructed to fear the Lord and stand in awe of Him. And you and I who are about to partake of the Lord’s Supper in a few minutes, we need to recognize that God created all things through and for our Lord Jesus Christ. All things that are made are meant to praise God and His Son Jesus Christ. The glory of God is at stake when we do not. We fall short of that glory when we do not praise Him.

Turn over to Psalm 104, verses 24-31, and we will find another example of how to praise Him. “O Lord, how manifold are Your works!” “In wisdom You have made them all.” “The earth is full of Your possessions – This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great.” “There the ships sail about; there is that Leviathan which You have made to play there.” “These wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season.” “What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand they are filled with good.” “You hide Your face they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.” “You send forth Your Spirit they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.” “May the glory of the Lord endure forever; May the Lord rejoice in His works.” The great object of God’s creating all things is that He might be pleased. Let us ask ourselves whether He is pleased with us; whether we are bringing glory to His name; whether His glory is seen in me? Let us ask ourselves whether we fear Him, and stand in awe of Him, and how this affects the way that we live? Let us remember, as we come to the Lord’s table today, to bring our hearts to Him anew and afresh that we might praise Him for His greatness, His wisdom, His goodness, and His power, in His creating and upholding every living thing.

**Secondly - You can tell whether you are a true Christian or not by whether your heart welcomes the idea that you must continue to seek the grace of the Lord Jesus in order to be holy.** (Verses 3-6)

“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?” “Or who may stand in His Holy place?” “He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.” “He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” “This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face.” We must ask ourselves, when we hear these words read to us, whether we can discern what is meant by ascending into the hill of the Lord, or standing in His Holy place? Well, the hill of the Lord is referring to Zion in the Old Testament; the place where God was worshiped by His people. And, in the New Testament times it refers to our being able to stand vindicated as a true disciple in God’s Holy presence; His holy place, both at the time of our death, when our spirit will ascend on high, and on the last Day when we will be raised from the dead and God will judge the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. The question therefore is: Who is the person who is worshiping God in an acceptable way; in such a way in this life, that he will end up going to heaven in the end; when he dies. The object of all of our worship; all of our coming to church for so many

years is this; that we will have worshiped and served Him in an acceptable way; and that we might all through our life after conversion to Christ, to be found walking worthy of all that He has called us to; through and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of our life, the question will be, will we be able to ascend because we have clean hands and a pure heart? Or will there have been some idol; some favorite sin; some lie which dishonored God and hurt other people which God will not be able to overlook because it was not repented of? We must think about this carefully as we come to the Lord's Table once again. It is no little thing in the life of a Christian to have clean hands and a pure heart. I will define for you what this is in just a moment. But before I do, I want to direct your attention to verse 6. The person who shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation is the one who "seeks Him, who seeks God's face". Notice how God is the "God of our salvation", not the God who is impressed with the perfection of our righteous works. The person who knows God and obeys God's word is the one who is receiving blessing of the Lord to do so. He is receiving righteousness from the God of his salvation who has provided it. He receives the blessings of salvation by seeking for them by faith. It is not his own righteousness that he is trusting in.

But this still does not explain the phrase: "He who has clean hands and a pure heart". What this is referring to I believe is that a Christian is one who has sworn in his soul to take Jesus Christ for His righteousness; to take Him with the sincerity of his heart, to be His Savior and Lord. But this sincerity is a sincerity which itself is based on the grace of Christ, leads the true Christian to strive with all of his heart to follow Christ in consistency, and to pursue holiness, righteousness, and truth. His greatest desire is to know more of Christ and to be more like Christ. He, or she, wants to know more of what it is like to be righteous and holy without being self-righteous or having a "holier than thou" attitude. This is something that a Christian should be pursuing every day in his heart. I like what W. S. Plumer says in his commentary on the Psalms at this verse. "In Scripture language he who has clean hands is one who has not defiled them with blood, or violence, or bribery, or fraud, or unjust gain, or wrong doing of any kind towards God or man, the hands being the instruments of action." "But the hands are governed by the heart, so that must be pure." "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." "None but the pure of heart shall see God." (Matthew 5: 8) "Men judge of the heart by acts, but God judges acts by the heart, and the heart by itself." "A pure heart shows itself chiefly in two ways: by hatred of guile, hypocrisy, vain thoughts, vile affections, sins of every kind; and by love to truth, purity, holiness, uprightness, God, and all His excellence." "He who meets the foregoing description is also one who has not lifted up his soul to unto vanity." "Though idols are vanities, yet a man may lift up his soul to vanity without open idolatry." "Many things besides idols are a vanity, a lie, as the word is elsewhere rendered." "All their lives some walk in a vain show." "But the godly prefers truth to any form of delusion, seriousness and even sorrow to levity and trifling." "Such a man," Plumer says, "can be trusted."

So as we come to the Lord's Table at this time, let us be praying to God that He would be giving us a straight and a true heart; a heart which loves righteousness and hates lawlessness. Let us seek Him together for the blessings of rich grace which will give us the strength to do God's will in every particular. Let us come down front now, and gather together to remember all that our Lord has done to give us the ability to ascend to His holy hill.

**3rdly - If you are a true Christian your heart welcomes the idea that King Jesus should have all the glory of your salvation.** (Verses 7-10)

"Lift up your heads, O you gates!" "And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!" "And the King of glory shall come in." "Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." "Lift up your heads, O you gates!" "Lift up, you everlasting doors!" "And the King of glory shall come in." "Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, He is the King of

glory.” It is not as though that when the Lord Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead and ascended on high into heaven itself to appear for us, that he was not welcomed by all the heavenly angels. They knew that He was the king of glory. They would have certainly welcomed him into heaven with their shouts and praises. If there were doors in heaven and gates; they certainly would have lifted them up. But it seems more applicable not to the angels who have not received the blessings of grace which Christ, our Captain, purchased by His grace. It seems very applicable to the shouts of wonder and astonishment in the hearts and minds of sinners who have come to know the reality of Christ’s presence and power and blessing coming to their hearts. He has come to their hearts; they have opened the gates and doors, and welcomed Him in.

There is nothing greater than this; the triumphant entry of Christ as He comes in to the soul of a sinner. Will you not welcome Him once again, now, in this the time of the Supper? He was strong and mighty on your behalf when He went into battle for your soul. He went to the cross and stormed the gates of hell to bring you back from your captivity and bondage from sin. He had to lay down His precious life for you to obtain your release. And He has not only freed you from your bondage to sin, but He has given you all the privileges of His Sonship being bestowed upon you each and every day. He is the King of glory to your soul. Everything excellent and good, God has, and He will bestow upon you for Jesus’ sake. Will you not give Him all the glory for what He has done at the cross; what He is now doing, in cleansing you from all sin? And will you not also remember what He is yet going to do for you? He will bring you to eternal and everlasting glory. He would have all us welcome Him here into our midst and into our hearts; to remember the battle that He fought, and that He won, for our souls at the cross. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up in faith to behold His glory! He has been crowned with glory and honor by the Father. Now, you crown Him Lord of all, in your heart once again, and renew your covenant with Him in remembering His triumph by taking this Supper.