

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Ophelia
Judy

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

What two cities did Jesus say would have repented in sackcloth and ashes if they could have seen his miracles?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Ben-Hadad - 1 Kings 20:31-32

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The Psalms in Practice **The Man Whom God Will Accept** Brent Lewis

PSALMS SNAPSHOT:

“Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah? And who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto falsehood, and hath not sworn deceitfully ... them that seek after him, that seek thy face” (24:3–4, 6).

What kind of man will be acceptable to God? The psalmist gives a concise but comprehensive description of true holiness. Notice the four or five conditions which are requisite to acceptance with God:

1. Abstinence from evil acts. “He that hath clean hands” (verse 4). The Bible places great emphasis on what one does with his hands. “Hands” are a symbol of work (Psalm 111:7), and “clean hands” are hands whose work is faithful and thorough (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Our work should be a reflection of an honest and diligent character. Hands are used as a symbol of earning and

paying, getting and giving (Proverbs 10:4); thus “clean hands” are those never defiled by dishonest gain (Isaiah 33:15). Hands were also used as a symbol of mutual faith and honor (Genesis 14:22–23); thus, it means untarnished honor and faithfulness (Psalm 15:4). Though Jesus was the only one who was perfect in this (Hebrews 7:26; John 8:46), who truly had “clean hands”—still we must do our best to keep our actions clean and pure.

“Pure religion and undefiled before our God and father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).

2. Abstinance from evil thoughts. “He that hath ... a pure heart” (verse 4). The man whom God will accept must be as good inwardly as he seems to be outwardly. The heart is the source of all evil (Matthew 15:19–20). Harsh, unkind words and wicked acts spring from an impure heart. So, here is the need for inward holiness—right motives, feelings, aims. The world often concerns itself more with conduct than with motives—but God looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). God even accepts the things we do not actually accomplish, as long as the motivation is right (1 Kings 8:17–18; Hebrews 11:17 and Genesis 22:16). On the other hand, the holiest service with an impure motive is distasteful to God (Proverbs 21:27; 1 Samuel 15:22–23). If we would keep “clean hands,” then we must pray David’s prayer: “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

3. Abstinance from evil affections. “Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity [falsehood, ASV]” (verse 4).

This man does not spend his time pursuing vain or untrue things—those which have only a show, but no substance. Materialism is a constant threat to the man who would please God. But the one whom God will accept is not inordinately inclined toward the wealth of the world, the delights of the eye, or the praise of men. He sees these things as both uncertain and unsatisfying.

4. He remembers the vows made to God and man. “And hath not sworn deceitfully” (verse 4). He has not broken his promise, violated his covenants, nor taken any false oath. Those who have no regard for truth and no resolve of commitment are unfit for a place in God’s holy hill.

5. He is a praying man. “That seek[s] thy face” (verse 6). This man is greatly concerned about God’s favor and the doing of His will. He approaches Him often (Luke 18:1; 1 Peter 3:12).

What a beautiful portrait of the man whom God will accept! Let us each strive to be the kind of person described by the psalmist here and resolve to put “the Psalms in practice” in our daily lives.