

The Psalms of David

*Franklin Christian Church
Fall 2017 Life Group Study*



Psalm 24 (Week of Oct. 1; 2 Sam. 6)

Introduction: In 2 Samuel 6, the Ark of the Covenant is featured as God's throne – the place where God's presence rests. It is one of the most holy objects in Israel, and will later be placed inside the innermost chambers of the temple. Psalm 24 describes the attitude we should bring in our hearts before God's throne in corporate worship – an attitude David has as he dances before it in 2 Samuel 6. As we read this psalm, we can learn about entering into God's presence.

Have a group member read the psalm aloud. Group members with Bibles can follow along and note anything that stands out.

1. Psalm 24 would have been sung before entering the temple to remind Israel of what's important to God before they worshiped Him. What are some things the psalm indicates should be important to God's worshipers? What are some attitudes and practices we can apply to our hearts before we worship together?
2. Verses 3-4 seem to indicate that only the righteous are allowed into the assembly to worship. How might we distinguish between righteousness and "having it all together" when we come to worship? Church should be a place where we can be vulnerable with one another, but what if we do not have our lives "put together" when we come to God for worship on Sunday morning? Is it tempting for us to pretend we do have everything "put together" on Sunday morning? Why?

3. Part of “clean hands and a pure heart” in v. 4 is avoiding idol worship and not swearing deceitfully (NRSV, ESV). These refer to different instructions from the Ten Commandments. Put positively, we may broadly think of them as extensions of loving God and our neighbors. David demonstrates this when he feeds the entire worship gathering in 2 Samuel 6:19. What are ways we actively love God during worship at church? What are ways we actively love our neighbors? How do we practice this purity of heart throughout the week?

4. Uzzah’s death in 2 Samuel 6 is an example of divine retribution – when God punishes for doing wrong and rewards for doing good. Psalm 24:5 follows that idea. While the story of Job illustrates the principle of divine retribution does not always apply, Obed-Edom’s house was blessed for taking care of the Ark of the Covenant (2 Samuel 6:10-11). Is it always the case that God rewards for doing good and punishes for doing wrong? What are some experiences from your life that inform your understanding?

5. Obed-Edom’s experience, David’s worshipful experience, and Psalm 24:5 all point toward an implication of what blessedness means: they all find blessedness in the context of God’s presence. We can practice awareness of God’s presence any time, but as Psalm 24:6 and David’s dance illustrate, it might be easier during corporate worship. When are you most aware of God’s presence? How does awareness of God’s presence bless us?

6. What does this psalm reveal about David’s heart? What about God’s heart? What has this revealed in your hearts?