

“SHALL WE ENTER A HOLY PLACE?”

Sunday, November 18, 2007

FROM “CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION”

Psa 24:1 (A psalm by David.) The earth and everything on it belong to the LORD. The world and its people belong to him.

Psa 24:2 The LORD placed it all on the oceans and rivers.

Psa 24:3 Who may climb the LORD's hill or stand in his holy temple?

Psa 24:4 Only those who do right for the right reasons, and don't worship idols or tell lies under oath.

Psa 24:5 The LORD God, who saves them, will bless and reward them,

Psa 24:6 because they worship and serve the God of Jacob.

DAVID ASKS, “WHO MAY CLIMB THE LORD’S HILL, OR STAND IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE?”

SHALL WE?

SHALL WE ENTER THAT HOLY PLACE?

WE CAN....DAVID, AND OTHERS WILL SHOW US HOW!

IN MATTHEW HENRY’S COMPLETE COMMENTARY HE CONSIDERS **PSALM 24**;

THIS IS WHAT HENRY WRITES: “A SOUL THAT KNOWS AND CONSIDERS ITS OWN NATURE, AND REALIZES IT MUST LIVE FOREVER TAKES VIEW OF THE EARTH AND THE FULNESS THEREOF.....

THE SOUL SITS DOWN UNSATISFIED.

IT WILL THINK OF ASCENDING TOWARD GOD, AND WILL ASK, WHAT SHALL I DO, THAT I MAY ABIDE IN THAT HAPPY, HOLY PLACE, WHERE GOD ABIDES WITH HIS PEOPLE HOLY AND HAPPY?”

HENRY WOULD CONTEND THAT THE SOUL IS FULLY AWARE THAT;

- WE ARE NOT OUR OWN, WE DID NOT CREATE OURSELVES, AND IN FACT WE OWN NOTHING. THE SEARCHING SOUL WILL DISCOVER THAT ALL WE HAVE BELONGS TO THE CREATOR. EVEN THOSE WHO CLAIM NO RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WILL SOON DISCOVER THE SAME.
 - HENRY FURTHER CONTENDS THAT THE SOUL RECOGNIZES ETERNITY IS A REALITY, AND THAT IT WILL DWELL EITHER IN ETERNAL HAPPINESS, OR ETERNAL AGONY.
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WHAT AWARENESS DID THE SOUL OF DAVID DECLARE TO HIM? **PSALM 24:1**
“THE EARTH AND EVERYTHING ON IT BELONGS TO THE LORD/GOD. THE
WORLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.”

ONCE THAT REALITY IS ATTAINED, AND ONCE THE SOUL MEASURES ONE
 AGAINST THE OTHER AND REALIZES THAT IT IS GOD, AND GOD ALONE THAT
 CREATES ETERNAL HAPPINESS....**THE SOUL WILL WANT THE BODY TO STRIVE**
TO ATTAIN THAT HOLY PLACE!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT IS TRUE?

FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW CHRIST....WE KNOW, OR WE ARE LEARNING THAT WE
 WILL HAVE AN ETERNAL DWELLING PLACE.

THROUGHOUT THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST WE ARE REMINDED THAT **“THOSE**
WHO ARE WORTHY” WILL ATTAIN ETERNAL LIFE.

LET ME REMIND YOU THAT OUR DWELLING IN THAT HOLY PLACE IS ALREADY
 OURS.

IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE CREATION EVENT.

THEN, IF IT IS OURS ALREADY, WHAT'S THE WORRY?

HERE'S THE PROBLEM.....

WE FAIL TO LIVE IN AN ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING

WE SOMEHOW LOSE PERSPECTIVE AND BEGIN TO LIVE LIFE AS THOUGH WE ARE
 IN CONTROL.

LIVING LIFE AS THOUGH WE ARE IN CONTROL, AND LIVING LIFE IN AN
ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING CAN BE TWO VERY DIFFERENT LIFE STYLES.

STAY WITH ME NOW.....

TO BE SURE, CONTROL IS A VERY IMPORTANT WORD.

WE CAN “CONTROL” OUR ATTITUDES/CHOICES.....

THIS WORD “CONTROL” CAN CAUSE US TO FOCUS ON SELF, AND SELFISH WANTS
 AND DESIRES, OR IT CAN CAUSE US TO FOCUS ON THE VERY THINGS THAT GOD
 THROUGH CHRIST CALLS US TO BE, OR TO DO.

CONSIDER THE CREATION EVENT....ADAM AND EVE....THEY WERE CREATED
 MAN AND WOMAN....AND THE SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT AFTER THEY WERE
 CREATED.....THE BREATH OF LIFE WAS BREATHED INTO THEM.....

SOME WILL ARGUE THAT AT THAT MOMENT....MAN AND WOMAN WERE GIVEN
 THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.....

IT WAS THEIR ABILITY TO **CONTROL THEIR CHOICES** THAT CAUSED THEM TO TURN AWAY FROM THAT GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE, AND TO FOCUS ON THEIR ON SELFISH WANTS AND DESIRES.

CLEARLY GOD WANTS EACH OF US TO ATTAIN THAT HOLY PLACE....

THAT IS WHY HE CAME IN THE FORM OF JESUS CHRIST TO SHOW US THE WAY....

CLEARLY IT IS THE **RESPONSE TO THE SOUL'S DESIRE TO BE THANKFUL** THAT WILL BRING US TO THAT HOLY PLACE.

SO HOW SHOULD THIS ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING BE LIVED OUT IN OUR LIVES?

→THE APOSTLE JOHN SAYS WE SHOULD WANT TO BE FREE FROM SIN, OR WE SHOULD **WANT TO BE CLEANSED** OF THE VERY ACTIONS AND CHOICES THAT KEEP US FROM THAT HOLY PLACE.

DOES THIS MEAN WE WILL AT ANY TIME IN OUR EARTHLY LIFE BE FREE FROM SIN.....NO! BUT THE THANKFUL HEART WILL BE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION.

JOHN WESLEY ASKED THE QUESTION ARE YOU MOVING TOWARD PERFECTION, A SIN FREE LIFE? THE ANSWER SHOULD BE YES!

THAT SHOULD BE OUR HEARTS DESIRE TO BE FREE FROM SIN.

1 JOHN 1:9 SAYS, **“IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO HIM, HE CAN BE DEPENDED ON TO FORGIVE US, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM EVERY WRONG.”**

I REMEMBER PRAYING WITH A MAN BEFORE HE DIED.

HE WAS NOT A HAPPY MAN....IN OTHER WORDS THERE HAD NOT BEEN A LOT OF JOY IN HIS LIFE.

HE BELIEVED HE WAS A GOOD MAN, BUT BY HIS OWN CONFESSION HE NEVER FOUND FULFILMENT OR SATISFACTION IN HIS LIFE.

SO, I ASKED THE QUESTION....JIM DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS?

EVEN ON DEATH'S BED HE COULD NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

SO I TOLD HIM....JIM, JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS. ACCEPT THE GIFT THAT IS YOURS.

THE TEARS IN HIS EYES LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE DID!

BUT WHAT A SHAME THAT A LIFE WAS LIVED TO THE POINT OF DEATH AND NEVER HAVING KNOWN THE DAILY JOY, PEACE AND ASSURANCE THAT COMES FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP....

WHAT A SHAME THAT HE NEVER HAD THE ASSURANCE OF ENTERING THAT HOLY PLACE.

SO, WE ARE IN CONTROL OF WANTING TO MOVE CLOSER TO GOD AND THAT HOLY PLACE, WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE SINNED, AND NEED TO BE CLEANSED.

→WANTING, OR DESIRING A PURE HEART IS ANOTHER WAY TO THAT HOLY PLACE.

JEREMIAH 48:10, SAYS “**CURSED IS THE ONE WHO DOES THE WORK OF THE LORD DECEITFULLY.**”

JESUS SAID, “**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.**”

WE LIVE IN SUCH AN UNPURE WORLD, SO THE LOGICAL QUESTION WOULD BE; “HOW CAN I HAVE SUCH A PURE HEART?”

BE CAREFUL, BECAUSE THAT QUESTION CAN CAUSE US TO LOSE CONTROL ON OUR GOAL OF LIVING A THANKFUL LIFE!

WHY THEN DID JESUS EVER BOTHER UTTERING THOSE WORDS? **THE WORDS WERE UTTERED TO PUNCTUATE THE PRIDE OF THE HYPOCRITE....BUT YET GIVE HOPE TO THOSE THAT WOULD ENDEAVOR TO BE STRONG.**

THE SCRIPTURES TELL US THAT A PURE HEART IS ATTAINABLE;

- **1ST TIMOTHY 1:5 TELLS US THAT A PURE HEART IS ATTAINABLE WHEN YOU DESIRE TO TEACH GENUINE LOVE, AND HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE.**
- **2ND TIMOTHY 2:22, TELLS US TO RUN FROM TEMPTATION, STRIVE TO DO RIGHT, AND WORSHIP WITH THOSE WHO ALSO SEEK PURITY OF HEART.**
- **HEBREWS 10:22, TELLS US TO FLEE FROM EVIL THOUGHTS, DO THOSE THINGS THAT STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH...PRAYER, SCRIPTURE READING, FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS.**

I LIKE WHAT JOHN WROTE IN 1 JOHN 3:21...WHEN YOU FEEL AT EASE WITH GOD, COME NEAR TO HIM IN COMFORT.

WHATEVER IT IS THAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM KNOWING THE COMFORT OF THIS RELATIONSHIP.....YOU SHOULD FLEE FROM.

THE SCRIPTURE GIVES US SOME INDICATION OF THOSE THINGS THAT DISTURB OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- ADULTERY, LUST OF THE FLESH.
- BITTERNESS TOWARD YOUR NEIGHBOR.
- FOUL AND GODLESS LANGUAGE.
- DENIAL OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES.
- COMPROMISING WHAT YOU KNOW TO BE TRUTH.
- LAZINESS.

THE ONE SEEKING PURITY OF HEART WILL HAVE HIS/HER EYES FIXED ON GOD AND THE DESIRE TO ATTAIN THAT HOLY PLACE THAT IS ALREADY OURS.

→**DAVID WRITES IN PSALM 24, THE PERSON SEEKING THAT HOLY PLACE, “WILL NOT LIFT UP HIS SOUL UNTO AN IDOL.”**

PROVERBS 18:12 SAYS, “**BEFORE HONOR (ATTAINING THAT HOLY PLACE) IS HUMILITY.**”

WHEN WE LOSE CONTROL OF WHAT DRIVES US TOWARD OUR ETERNAL GIFT, OUR **ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING**, WE CAN EASILY FALL INTO THE GRIP OF PRIDE.

THE SCRIPTURE CLEARLY POINTS TO **THE SIN OF PRIDE** AS THE CENTER OF SELF DESTRUCTION.

IT CAN INVADE THE SOUL IN SUCH A WAY THAT CAUSES US TO IMAGINE THAT **WE HAVE BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE.**

WE CAN BECOME WORSHIPPERS OF SELF, AND SELF ACCOMPLISHMENTS... WHICH CLEARLY IS IDOL WORSHIP.

THERE IS A DRAMATIC STORY FOUND IN THE GOSPELS OF A MAN WHOSE LIFE WAS FILLED WITH PRIDE OF SELF.....

IT IS FOUND IN **LUKE 16:19-26**.....TO PARAPHRASE, AND SUMMARIZE....

THERE WAS A SICK MAN WHO LAID OUTSIDE THE GATES OF A VERY WEALTHY PERSON. EVERY DAY THIS RICH MAN HAD TO WALK BY THE SORE INFESTED MAN, BUT NEVER OFFERED ANY HELP....NOT A WORD OF GREETING...NOTHING, HE JUST IGNORED HIM.

THE DAY OF DEATH ARRIVED FOR BOTH OF THEM...THE SICK MAN...AND THE MAN FILLED WITH PRIDE OF SELF....

THE MAN WHO WAS SICK THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN, WENT TO THAT HOLY PLACE AND WAS MET BY ABRAHAM.

THE MAN FILLED WITH PRIDE OF SELF....WENT TO HELL. AND AS IF HELL WASN'T BAD ENOUGH...HE WAS ABLE TO LOOK TO THAT HOLY PLACE....AND SEE THE PERSON HE HAD IGNORED ALL OF HIS LIFE.

THE STORY IS A REFLECTION OF THE WORDS OF JOB WHO SAID IN **JOB, CHAPTER 27, "HE LIES DOWN WEALTHY AND SECURE IN SELF, BUT WILL DO SO NO MORE; WHEN HE OPENS HIS EYES ALL IS GONE AND TERRORS OVERTAKE HIM LIKE A FLOOD."**

SO, THE QUESTION FOR US TO PONDER IS THIS....

HOW STRONG IS OUR DESIRE TO ENTER THAT HOLY PLACE?

IS OUR DESIRE STRONG ENOUGH THAT WE WILL STRIVE TO CONTROL WHAT WE SAY AND DO?

IS OUR ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY US TO THAT HOLY PLACE?

IN SUMMARY THEN.....

- WE MUST SEEK TO BE FORGVIEN ON A DAILY BASIS.
- WE MUST DESIRE PURITY OF HEART.
- WE MUST BE HUMBLE.
- BE THANKFUL

LET US PRAY.