

Parent Study Guide – Bonus Verse 2015-16

THE HILL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – Psalm 24:3-4

Passage: *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.*

– Psalm 24:3-4 (ESV)

Theme: THE HILL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – How can sinful man stand before a holy God?
Metaphor: GOD’S HOLINESS IS LIKE A HILL – Who can ascend to God’s high standard of holiness?
Message: GOD HAS MADE A WAY FOR US TO ENTER HIS PRESENCE – The King of Glory, the Messiah.
Action: WORSHIP THE KING OF GLORY AND TURN TO HIM – Jesus opens the way to God.

Discussion Questions: Answers and suggested responses are underlined.

1. What do the first two verses of Psalm 24 talk about? – the supremacy of God over all His creation and its inhabitants.
2. What two questions are asked in verse 3? – “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?”
3. What was the “hill of the Lord” when David wrote this Psalm? – Mount Zion, the highest point in Jerusalem where the Lord’s Temple was to be built.
4. What was “his holy place” in the time of King David? – the Temple – at that time still the Tabernacle, a temporary dwelling, a tent.
5. What do Mount Zion and the Temple represent for us today? – fellowship with God – when He indwells us through His Spirit, we become His temple.
6. What do they represent for the future? – Heaven, our eternal place of worship, our eternal place of fellowship with God
7. What answer is given for the question in verse 3 (see verse 4)? – To enter into fellowship with God, we must have “clean hands and a pure heart” (our actions and thoughts). We must not lift up our soul to what is false (an idol or false god).
8. How clean must our hands be and how pure must our heart be to enter into fellowship with God? – perfectly clean, perfectly pure. God cannot tolerate sin.
9. Who then has hands clean enough and a heart pure enough to enter God’s presence? – No one. We have all sinned and fall short of God’s holiness (Rom. 3:23).

10. Yet what is promised in verse 5? – “Blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”
11. What do the last four verses talk about in this Psalm (see verses 7-10)? – Gates, ancient doors, and the King of glory.
12. Who is this King of glory? – “the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle, ... the Lord of hosts”
13. How is this King of glory described? – as a king who is victorious in battle.
14. Since we are not holy enough, who will go in before us and open the way? – the King of glory, the Messiah, Jesus our Lord and King, our savior.
15. What decision does God require of us (see verse 4) to follow the King of glory? – that we not lift up our soul to what is false (idolatry), and that we not swear deceitfully (giving our heart to falsehood or swearing allegiance to a false god).

Biblical & Theological Background:

1. There are those who call Christ “Lord” who will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21-23 and Luke 13:25-27). But this does not mean that our confession of His Lordship is unimportant (Matt. 10:32-33). It means that it must arise from an honest and sincere heart.
2. Hearing and doing is taught throughout scripture (Ex. 15:26; Deut. 7:12; Rom. 2:13; Jas. 1:22-25). Coming to Him and obeying His commands are essential for entering His kingdom.
3. But the “doing” God desires from us must arise from a transformed heart that seeks after God (Luke 6:43-45). It’s not the actions themselves that save us, but rather the reason we are committed to those actions. It is the One behind those actions that is the source of our salvation (1 Cor. 3:13).
4. Scripture teaches that it is possible to build on a foundation that will last (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 1 John 2:17). Christ and His teaching is that foundation (Is. 28:16; 1 Peter 2:4-8; 1 John 2:6).
5. The habit of hearing but not doing leads to ruin. For those who reject Christ and His teaching there will be complete destruction (Ezek. 13:11; Luke 6:24-26). Jesus is the rock of our salvation, but we must come to Him seeking His truth, hearing His word, and responding in obedience in order to build on that foundation (John 8:32; John 13:17; Jas. 1:25; 1 John 3:18).

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.