

TITLE AND NUMBER: 193. The earth is the Lord's!

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Psalm 24:1-6

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Saviour. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

LOOKING FURTHER: Genesis 1:9; John 3:16



What does this Bible passage tell us?

We have all heard someone ask the question, 'Who does this belong to?' This is usually in the context of something having been found but the owner is unknown.

In this Psalm, David states that the earth is the Lord's; it isn't lost, nor is David asking who it belongs to. He makes a declaration that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The Bible starts with the words, 'In the beginning God created....' (Genesis 1:1). Now David is asking how he can get near to the Creator of the world and even stand in His presence (v3). The answer is, 'The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god' (v.4). This sadly excludes everyone who has ever lived; no hope for us at all then?

But wait! On many occasions in previous Bible Studies we have talked about having hope and being sure that we can have a relationship with God. This is where the Gospel comes to our rescue. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus and having faith in Him, we can have a relationship with the Creator of the world, which isn't just in our earthly lifetime but for eternity.

We are no longer separated or excluded from God, but rather free to approach Him and have a personal relationship with Him. Through Jesus, we are able to be in God's family. We are blessed in many ways - accepted, forgiven, restored - not just to keep for ourselves but to share with others that they too may have access into God's presence.

Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? We can!

Reflections:

- If you are unsure about your relationship with God, then read John 3:16. It tells us that God welcomes us all to stand before Him having received His forgiveness.
- Take time to consider that the One who created everything wants to have a relationship with you; that's why Jesus died.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

