

Crossway Life Group, Week of March 1

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Psalm 24. Sermon: "The King of Glory"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

1. **Consider things in life are essential in life, recommended, or discouraged.** Some things in life are essential (like breathing and eating), some things are recommended (like exercise), and some things are discouraged (like riding a bicycle or moped without a helmet). This week, we are thinking about the things that are essential to life.
2. **Read Psalm 24. Now re-read verses 1-2.** What does the author emphasize about God and His relationship with the world? Why might it be significant that God owns both the earth as well as everything and everyone in it?
3. **Re-read verses 4-6.** What is the question that the author asks (using your own words rather than just quoting the text)? What is the answer to that question? What good will come to the one who fits this answer?
4. **Re-read verses 7-10.** What command/invitation is given? And what does the author emphasize about the One we are to let enter in?
5. Do you have any other questions about the passage or the sermon?

The Big Idea

**Since God is the final authority
over everything and everyone
we are warned to be holy
both vertically and horizontally
and commanded to receive Him**

Application & Reflection Questions

1. **God is "sine qua non", which is a Latin phrase that means "without which, nothing."** In other words, if we don't have God, we have nothing. He is essential. In what sense is this true?
2. **Yet sometimes, it seems that life can go on quite well without an active sense of God.** Breathing is the sine qua non of life, since, if we don't breathe, we will not live. Yet we can hold our breath for a short period of time and not feel any negative impact. How might this illustration help us understand times when people live apparently without God yet seem not to have any negative effects?
3. What does it mean in your life when you "hold your breath" in your relationship with God, that is, when you live without an active awareness of or dependence on Him? In other words, what apparently takes the place of your relationship with God?
4. What practices help you to "breathe deeply" in God's presence?
5. We are to "fear" God alone, meaning that He is the only One we are to put our fundamental trust in. What other things are you tempted to "fear", that is, to put your fundamental trust in?
6. God demands that we be holy both vertically (in relationship with Him) and horizontally (in relationship with each other). For example, Jesus taught that we are to love God with all that we are (vertical), and to love our neighbors as ourselves (horizontal). Which of these two dimensions is a greater strength for you? What might it look like to grow in the other dimension? What might it look like to integrate these two dimensions (for example, so our love of people is deeply infused with our love of God)?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

Some cultures and settings have a high respect for people in authority, and they believe that authorities are to be supported and obeyed. Other cultures and settings view authorities with less respect and honor, and that support and submission is given only when the authorities have (in our own view) earned and deserve it. What is your view today of people who are in authority? What has led to that view? How might that affect your view of God?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

Our Nominating Committee will be presenting its nominations to the congregation this coming Sunday (March 8) and we will have a vote of affirmation after the worship service on March 29. Please pray for God's continued work in this process of forming our first Church Board.

Psalm 24 (New International Version)

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. [swear falsely]

They will receive

blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory.