

Message Title : **“Man in his proper position”**

Good morning, everyone! The pandemic which started in 2019 rapidly spread throughout the whole world and many lives have been lost, but now is phasing out! Thanks to vaccine and other useful medicine treatments! Human beings have overcome this deadly disaster! Praise the Lord! However, man's struggle with his own inner sinful nature pops up from time to time in history, and now the fearful and shameful war between the two countries is still going on. And because of it, again many people are suffering.

Today's Bible passage is picked up from the Old Testament, called Psalm, which is the collection of the witnessing of some believers about their faith in God at the Old Testament times. Among them, Psalm 24 is chosen. Let us learn from it.

The title of my message is, “Man and his proper posture”. In this psalm, first of all, the author David claims that the God whom he believed is the creator God of the universe (vs. 1~2). Then he goes on explaining that anyone created by God expected to have intimate fellowship with this creator God. And the man, who is allowed to have this fellowship, is blessed in keeping his inner heart purified and is free from any idol worships (vs.3~4), and is given righteousness before God (v.5). And so therefore, it is recommended that in order to receive these blessings, the man is expected to have true and total repentance from his worldly ways of life. Only then, the Lord of the universe may come and dwell with him and give all kinds of blessings to him (v.6~10).

(From now on, all the Scriptural citations are from NIV English version .)

I Yahweh God created all animate and inanimate things which exist on this earth (vs. 1, 2)

Kanzo Uchimura, a well-known Meiji Era Christian in Japan, is said to be deeply moved when he read Genesis 1:1 for the first time in his life. Here in Psalm 24, the believer David expresses his similar amazement when he observed those animate and inanimate things which exist in the land in which he lived. He confidently declares that God whom he believes is the creator God of the universe:

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 24:1,2

**The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.**

II The man in his proper posture is formed when he reconciles with the Creator God and is invited to have fellowship with Him (vs.3~6)

Here in these verses, David makes it clear that those who are invited to have abundant fellowship with Him are the ones who have:

- ① Clean hands and a pure heart,
- ② No idol worshipping and no false swearing,
- ③ Blessings and vindication from God the Savior.

The grace of salvation which those people may receive is wonderful. However, those gracious blessings do not come automatically but through their repentance, which is their proper posture or attitude.

III Repentance which is the proper posture of a man in order to receive the grace of salvation (vs.7~10)

Not only David, but also his forefathers who are depicted in the Bible, particularly Jacob (mentioned in v.6), who is the ancestor of the twelve tribes of Israel are all dedicated their prayers of repentance to God.

Those people truly experience what the Isaiah mentions in Is. 57:15.

Isaia 57:15:

**For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever,
whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place,
but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of
the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

Conclusive Word :

Here the person who is “contrite and lowly in spirit” is the one David mentions as the one who truly repents to be blessed by the Creator God!