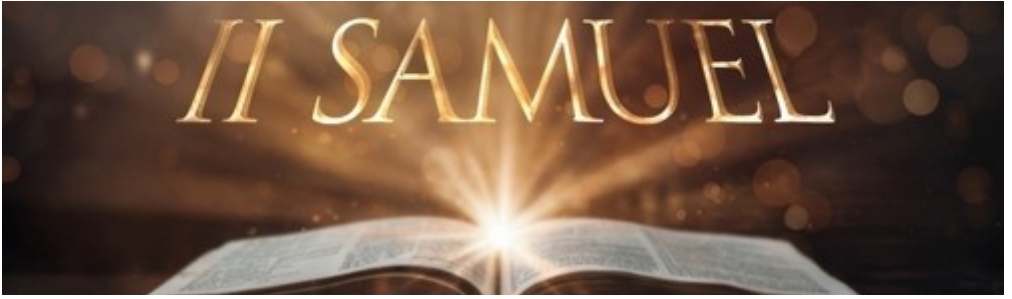


Let's Worship God

28th Sept. - 3rd Oct. 2026

2 Samuel





Monday - 2 Samuel 24:18-25 - Giving to God What Costs Nothing

When David says: 'I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing', those are his final words in the whole book. They're words that are important for us all to think about. Because it's scarily possible to have an outward profession of religion, which doesn't actually cost us anything - a one-hour a week type Christianity. And in fact, if that one hour of worship clashes with something else the person wants to do - or other people want them to do - worship is often what gets dropped. But what we see both from this verse and elsewhere in the Bible, is that no worship at all would be better than worship that costs us nothing. Not to worship God is sinful - but to offer him the dregs and leftovers of our life is even more offensive to him. I know that for many of you, to follow Jesus does come and has come at a cost. For some of you, even to physically make it out to worship on a Sunday comes at a cost. In fact, if you can look at some of the tangible ways in which your Christianity IS costing you, then you have reason to be encouraged that the same Holy Spirit who was at work in David is also at work in you. And you can be encouraged that the cost is worth it.

Question

1. What are some ways in which service to God has cost you?

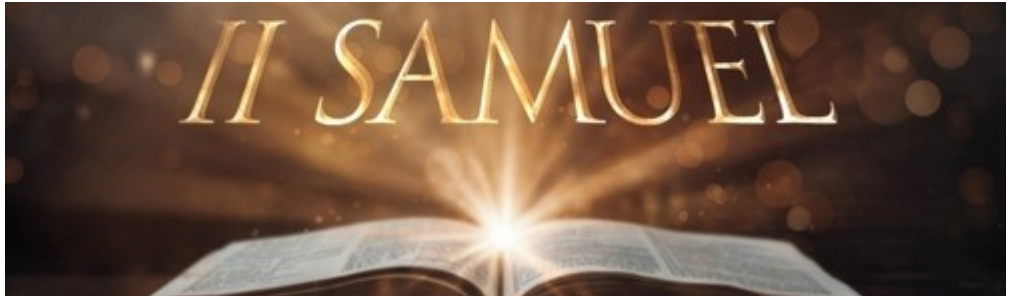
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would give to God even when it costs.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24b

Praise: Psalm 116:4-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 24:18-19 - Better To Shut The Doors

Sometimes it's good when the doors of a church close. It's right that we have a pang of regret when we see a church building where God was once worshipped turned into a restaurant or a pub or a carpet showroom. But if by the end the gospel wasn't being preached in that church, then it's better for it now to be a nightclub than a church. Because at least if people go to a nightclub, they know what they're going into. But if they go to somewhere that says 'Church' on the outside, and where Christian words are used - they will assume that what they're hearing inside is the gospel - even if it's not. God himself says the same thing. Malachi 1:10: 'Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain!' There was a time when God himself longed that someone would shut the doors of the temple. Why? To stop people offering him things that cost them nothing. He says two verses earlier: 'When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favour?' So what were they doing? They were looking at their flocks. And they were saying: 'there's a blind animal. It's no use to me. So I'll take it to the temple to offer it to God, rather than bringing a healthy one'. They were saying: 'There's a sick animal. It's not going to live long, so I might as well use it the next time I have to go and sacrifice to God. I'll give the sick one to God, and keep the healthy ones for myself.' And God says: 'Oh that someone would shut the doors'. Because he's not going to accept it. He says in v. 13: 'You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand?' What's the attitude behind offering God lame or sick animals? It is that the worship of God is a waste, that what is given to God is loss. That attitude is: I'm certainly not going to bring him offerings that actually cost me. I'm going to give him the things that no-one else wants. And that might satisfy their conscience. But it certainly won't satisfy God. And so he says it's better not to do it. Because if you do do it, you're cursed. Cursed in a way that you wouldn't be if you just didn't bring anything. Malachi 1:14: 'Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished'. In other words, cursed be those who like the appearance of being devoted to God - but aren't willing to 'take the hit' that the reality would require. Some people want to give the impression of being committed to God. But they think that the reality of it is too costly.

Question

1. In what circumstances is it better for a church building to close?

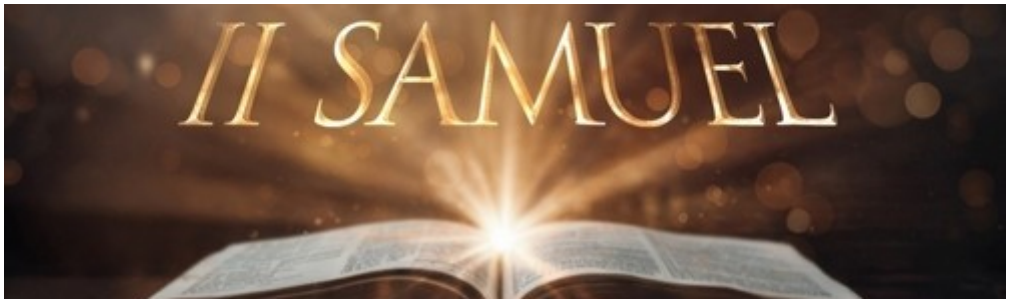
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would give the best to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24b

Praise: Psalm 23B - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 24:20-21 - God Has Done So Much

Whether we're willing to pay the cost shows what we really think of God. That's God's own argument in Malachi chapter 1. He says: 'Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favour?' In other words, try and be so half-hearted as you serve your king - or as you serve your employer - and see what they think of it! What would an employer think of an employee that just turned up when it suited them? And when they did come, didn't engage with what they were meant to be there for? An employer wouldn't stand for it. And yet people have the idea that God should just be grateful to get anything from them.

David here is determined not to offer God worship that costs him nothing - not simply because of God's greatness - but because of his goodness. God had done so much for him. And God has done so much for us. David knew God as his Shepherd. He tells us that in Psalm 23. With the New Testament in our hands, we can see more clearly than David could that the Good Shepherd would one day come and lay down his life for the sheep. The book of Malachi, which we've referred to a number of times, starts with the LORD saying: 'I have loved you'. That's the fundamental reason why their half-hearted worship was so bad. Yes it dishonoured him, which is a serious thing. But it also threw that love back in his face. The LORD said: 'I have loved you'. But they replied: 'How have you loved us?' What an awful question to ask! And God tells them that he had loved them by choosing them out of all the nations. And if we were to ask the question today 'How have you loved us?' The ultimate answer is the cross. And so in light not only of the greatness but also the goodness of the LORD, are we really going to offer him worship which costs us very little? It would be better not to worship than to offer worship which costs us nothing.

Question

1. What does our worship show about how we view God?

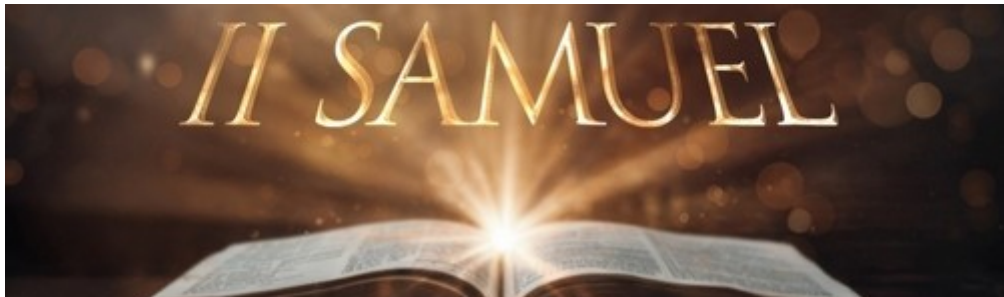
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that Christ has done for you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24b

Praise: Psalm 73C - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 24:22-23- Worship Out of Love and Faith

We shouldn't offer worship to the King which costs us nothing. But it's important to say as well that our worship is not acceptable to him simply because it's costly. 1st Corinthians 13 reminds us that if we give away all that we have, and we deliver up our bodies to be burned, but have not love, we gain nothing. Service of God which doesn't spring from a sense of his goodness doesn't honour him. The Apostle Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 5:14 that it's 'the love of Christ [which] compels us'. There's a difference between serving God out of love, and serving him out of a slavish fear. When we serve out of love, we serve because we want to, because we get to. But when we serve out of a slavish fear, we serve him reluctantly. Because we feel we have to. When Jacob had to serve 7 years to marry Rachel, we're told that it seemed to him but a few days, because of the love he had for her. If we serve God out of slavish fear, we'll do the bare minimum and begrudge even doing that. But if we serve him out of love, then it doesn't seem like a burden. What does costly service look like? It's motivated by love. It is labour. But it's a labour of love. Now sometimes we just have to do things because we should. And in the same way, there are times we don't feel like doing things in the service of God. But we do them, simply because they're the right thing to do. At times it has to be like that. But if that's the only reason we ever do things for God, then there's a big problem. Costly worship is motivated by love.

Costly worship also springs from faith. Hebrews chapter 11 describes people who did amazing things in their service for God, who counted the cost, who paid a high price. And how did they do it? 'By faith'. Without love it's all pointless. And without faith, it's impossible to please God. And we see David's faith on display in 2nd Samuel 24. When he says: 'I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD MY God which cost me nothing'. For him, God is not just 'God'. That name which speaks of power and majesty. Nor is he even just 'the LORD'. That name which speaks of God's covenant relationship with his people. But he is 'the LORD my God'. And that little word 'my' changes everything. That word 'my' speaks of his faith. Not just empty faith the way our world talks about 'people of faith' - but faith in a person. Throughout his life, David had been able to say: 'The LORD is MY Shepherd'. What does costly worship look like? It's motivated by love and it springs from faith.

Question

1. Why does worship need to be motivated by love?

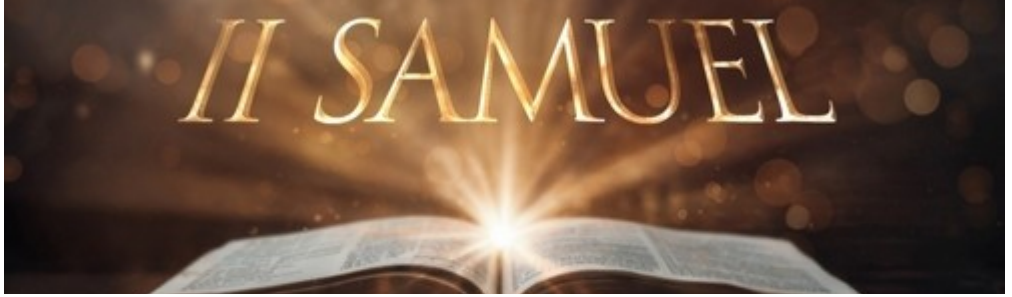
Prayer Points

1. Pray that our worship would come from hearts of love and faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24b

Praise: Psalm 116:9-13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Samuel 24:24-25 - Costly Service

if we're to do the opposite of offering to God things that cost us nothing, what might that look like? For David in 2nd Samuel 24, it's a financial cost. He buys the threshing floor and oxen for 50 pieces of silver. And he doesn't see that as something to be avoided at all cost. The very idea behind our English word 'worship' is an acknowledgement of someone's worth. And we show by our costly service of God how much we think he is actually worth. God doesn't need our money. Which is actually his money anyway. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts'. Haggai 2:8 The Apostle Paul reminds us: 'God is not served by human hands as though he needed anything'. But rather our financial giving - or lack of it - is one of the things that shows how we view God. As Paul puts it in 2nd Corinthians 8, it's one of the evidences that our love is genuine. He's speaking there of the churches of Macedonia, who he says gave according to their means, and beyond their means. But God is concerned not just that we give, but about the heart behind it. 'God loves a cheerful giver!' The Bible condemns the heart that looks on costly service to God as a waste. When Jesus' own disciples saw a woman anoint him with very expensive ointment they said: 'Why this waste?' But Jesus said: 'Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me'. The New Testament emphasis isn't on giving a particular percentage. Though I think we have reason to believe that the 10% figure that we see as early as Genesis 14 still hold true, at least as a minimum. But the New Testament emphasis is on joyful, sacrificial giving, not reluctantly.

There are other ways our service of God may be a financial cost to us, other than simply giving. There's God's command that we wouldn't do any unnecessary work on the Lord's Day. And the financial cost that could involve in terms of turning down work. Living as a Christian when the rest of your family aren't Christians will cost you in little and big ways. Having a daily time with God, reading your Bible and praying to him will cost you time, it might cost you sleep. Standing up for the Bible's teaching on morality will cost you. You may suffer in work if you refuse to lie to help someone out. There are many ways our service to God may be costly. But the true believer doesn't look on it as loss.

Question

1. What are some ways our service to God can cost?

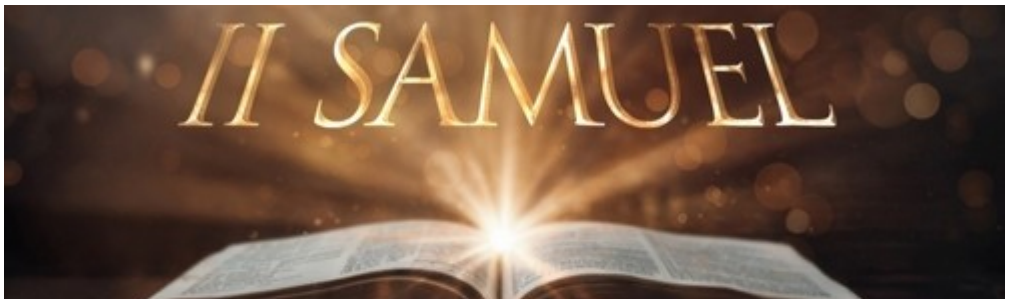
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that service to Christ is never a waste.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24b

Praise: Psalm 110:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 24:18-25 - In Light of Christ

One motivation to costly service is that we are promised a reward - even in this life! We could make a horrible mistake here to think that our salvation depends on our efforts. It doesn't! And hopefully what we've seen so far has already made that clear. David's desire to offer a costly sacrifice isn't because he's hoping to earn his salvation. He speaks as a man who already has a deep relationship with God. We're saved only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, which these burnt offerings and peace offerings pointed forward to. And yet Jesus says that even in this life, costly service will be rewarded: 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life'. Why does he add on: 'and eternal life'? Because your willingness - or lack of willingness - to serve God in costly ways now is part of the evidence as to whether you're one of his people or not. Jesus tells us that we must count the cost before becoming a disciple. And if we think we can get to Heaven despite our faith never costing us, then that is a Christianity of our own making, and therefore will not be accepted by God.

This chapter - and this book of 2nd Samuel - ends at the threshing floor of Araunah, now owned by David. But we can't end there. Because as the account of the same events in 1st Chronicles goes on to tell us, David declares that that threshing floor will be the site of the temple - where for centuries sacrifices would be offered. Up until the final sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ meant no more were needed. And the ultimate reason that we refuse to offer to the LORD that which cost us nothing, is that our salvation cost him everything. So there's nothing more to pay. And in light of all that he has done for us, any sacrifice he calls us to make is not a burden but a blessing.

Question

1. What happens to the threshing floor?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24b

Praise: Psalm 110:5-7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

**Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.**

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com