

The House Of The Lord

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. Psalm 65:4

The great English preacher G. Campbell Morgan in a sermon entitled SANCTARY, speaks to the human condition this morning....

"....we have a consciousness of our own danger, and our desire for escape; we have a consciousness of unrest and long instead for a place of rest. We are conscious of peril and desire after protection.

The cry for sanctuary in all ages has been the cry of one in the midst of stress and strain and danger, of peril and conflict, and unrest; it is a cry for protection, for some place in which to hide, for some sphere in which the forces which have been buffeting, beating and bruising us will be unable to reach us. The idea of sanctuary is the idea of a place of quietness, of peace, of privacy, of protection."

The best earth can come up with is a sort of placebo, offering a kind of synthetic delight. David was not fooled, and in Psalm 27 expressed a longing for the real deal, the house of the Lord. He knew to be a place of delights, a continual banquet, a feasting. Let's express that to the Lord right now, shall we?

PRAYER

Father, this one thing we ask of you, and we seek for it as well - that we might reside in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives, gazing upon your beauty, and seeking you in your dwelling place.

In the day of trouble, keep us safe, hide us in the shelter of your tabernacle. Set us high upon a rock, out of harms way.

May all opposition melt away in the light of your presence, so much so that we break out with shouts of joy, singing and making music to you with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. May we feast on the abundance of your house. Give us drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life - in your light we see light. Amen.

Better Is One Day

Psalm 84

LEADER:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

CONGREGATION:

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young - a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

LEADER:

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

You Are Good Forever

CONGREGATION:

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

LEADER:

They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

CONGREGATION:

Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

LEADER:

Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

CONGREGATION:

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

LEADER:

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

Be Still My Soul

PRAYER

Father, we recognize that the hour is fast approaching when we will be with you, forever. Until that day, we thank you for dwelling in our hearts by faith. We thank you for Jesus Christ in us, who is the hope of glory yet to come.

Jesus, we thank you for being a river of continual blessing, water constantly flowing into our lives by the Spirit, refreshing us, reviving us. You are an ever-flowing fountain, continually supplying you people, and yet you never run dry. And we have the confidence that fresh supplies will be ours, not just now but through all eternity - increasing even, always new, and never ending. AMEN. (prayer based on Jonathan Edwards)

Jonathan Edwards says that "Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight. They who come to Christ, do not only come to a resting-place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting-house where they may rest, and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.

The excellency of Christ is an object adequate to the natural cravings of the soul, and is sufficient to fill the capacity.....Every new discovery makes this beauty appear more ravishing, and the mind sees no end; here is room enough for the mind to go deeper and deeper, and never come to the bottom.

The soul is exceedingly ravished when it first looks on this beauty, and it is never weary of it....Christ's excellency is always fresh and new, and tends as much to delight, after it has been seen a thousand or ten thousand years, as when it was seen the first moment.

JONATHAN EDWARDS

Be Thou My Vision

OFFERING

Now And Forever

