

"THE SAINTS SPIRITUAL HOME"

PSALM 84

PART ONE

INTRO: One of the most wonderful blessings of being a Christian is the **GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP GOD HAS OFFERED TO EACH OF US.** For instance, daily we can worship Him and fellowship with the Lord and then on a regular basis we can **WORSHIP WITH AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS OF LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH through the Local Church.** And yet there are so many Christians who miss out on both because 1) They do not have an intimate relationship with God and 2) because they do not regularly attend church. Psalm 84 addresses both of these issues in ONE GREAT SWEEP! Let's observe.

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THE BACKGROUND OF THE PSALM:

- 1) Psalm 84 speaks of the matter of loving the Tabernacle and having fellowship with God. There is a New Testament application as well in that it deals with the love for the Church and fellowship with God in the place of worship.
- 2) Charles Spurgeon had an interesting opinion on some of the Psalms. For instance he said that the most Popular Psalm is Psalm 23, the most Pleasant Psalm is Psalm 103, the most Practical Psalm is Psalm 119, the most Plaintive Psalm is Psalm 51 **but the most peaceful Psalm is Psalm 84.**

THE OCCASION OF THE PSALM:

- 1) Some say it speaks of the OT believers traveling to the TEMPLE in Jerusalem to Worship.
- 2) When King David was exiled from Jerusalem because of the rebellion of his son Absalom - 2 Samuel 15. -THE MOST REASONABLE OCCASION.

THE POINT OF THE PSALM:

-The Author had been FORCED AWAY FROM THE PLACE OF WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE and **MISSED IT GREATLY! But the thought of worshipping in the Temple THRILLED HIS SOUL.**

THE DIVISIONS OF THE PSALM:

- 1) The Psalm is divided into THREE separate parts of FOUR verses each divided by the word "SELAH." "SELAH" is a word that is NOT to be spoken and means "**STOP AND THINK**" OR "**PAUSE AND PONDER.**"
- 2) The THREE DIVISIONS ARE:
 - a) The Lovely Recognition of the Place of Worship - Vrs. 1-4
 - b) The Lonely Restoration to the Place of Worship - Vrs. 5-8
 - c) The Longing Relationship with the Place of Worship - Vrs. 9-12

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THE LOVELY RECOGNITION OF THE PLACE OF WORSHIP

PSALM 84:1-4

(Recognizing what the Place of Worship Means for the Believer who truly loves the Lord.)

MY ATTITUDE TOWARD MY CHURCH AT HOME

- 1) I loved to Be There either with others for combined worship or by myself. As a teenager I had my own key to the church. Often alone I would go to the church to think, pray and dream. I liked its quietness, its smell, and its symbolism.
- 2) I Day-dreamed About my Home Church. As a teenager growing up I spent hours just thinking about the church, and **EVEN TO THIS DAY I STILL DO!**

MY ATTITUDE TOWARD FBC OF ALTOONA AND OTHER CHURCHES

- 1) I love coming into this sanctuary. It is quiet, it is peaceful, it is a blessing.
- 2) I love going into to other places of worship too. (The Llewysyn Church).

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I. THE CONSCIOUS PRESENCE IN THE CHURCH - VSS. 1,2

NOTE: God and His House were intimately related in the OT. Thus the Psalmist associates Fellowship with God with being in the Temple of Worship.

A. A Blessed Observation

1. The Physical Aspect - Vs. 1

- a. The word "AMIALE" means "Dear," "Beautiful," "Lovely."
- b. The word "TABERNACLE" is plural.

1) There was only one Tabernacle in the OT and so the Psalmist was speaking of all the rooms therein.

- a) The Outer Court
- b) The Holy Place
- c) The Holy of Holies

2) 50 chapters in the Bible report the instructions for the Tabernacle. It served as the place where God met with His people and **prefigured the approach to God through Christ.**

THE PSALMIST LOVED EVERY PART OF THE TABERNACLE!

2. The Personal Aspect - Vs. 2

- a. "My Soul Longeth and Fainteth."
- b. "My Heart Cries Out."
- c. "My Flesh Cries Out."

EVERY PHYSICAL ASPECT OF THE PSALMIST DESIRED THE TABERNACLE!

B. A Basic Challenge

EVERY CHILD OF GOD IN THE CHURCH AGE *SHOULD LOVE AND DELIGHT IN THE PLACE OF WORSHIP, NOT BECAUSE IT IS THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD (OUR BODIES ARE AS CHRISTIANS - 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19,20) BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT THE PLACE OF WORSHIP IS!*

1. It is the Place Dedicated to the Worship of God.
2. It is the Place of Fellowship with God's Children.
3. It is the Place of Instruction from God's Word.
4. It is the Place of Exhortation to Godly Living.

Christians should love going to church because it is a GOD THING!

C. A Beautiful Application

1. The Psalmists desire for the place of worship was DEEP! Every part of it was a blessing to Him. **WOULDN'T IT BE A BLESSING IF EVERY CHILD OF GOD HAD THAT ATTITUDE TODAY?**

2. We are Rapidly seeing the place of Worship being forsaken by those who claim to belong to Christ.

3. The Psalmist's absence from the place of Worship was not a choice - IT WAS BY FORCE! **HE LONGED TO BE IN THE TABERNALE!**

4. The Value of the Place of Worship is known by:

- a. Attending it with the right attitude.
- b. Being Unable to attend it.
- c. Being Restored back to it.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE CONTINUED PRAISE IN THE CHURCH - VSS. 3,4

A. An Expressive Illustration - Vs. 3

1. The Psalmist says that even the birds found rest in the Tabernacle.

2. The Sanctuary is the place of rest for the True Believer

a. The World is NO PLACE for the Christian to find Shelter and Security.

b. God's Presence and the Place Dedicated to Worship is the Place for the Child of God to find Shelter and Security.

c. The Believer who does NOT find Shelter and Security in the Place Dedicated to Worship has a SPIRITUAL NEED!

B. An Encouraging Benediction - Vs. 4.

1. Those who fellowship with God in the Place of Worship are Blessed AND continue to PRAISE HIM!

2. Those who Forsake God and the Place of Worship FAIL to Praise and Magnify the Lord!

SELAH!

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: In the Old Testament the Tabernacle was the place dedicated to worshipping God. In the New Testament, the Church is the place dedicated to worshipping God. **The true, committed believer who has that spiritual understanding will want to attend church with the right attitude!**