

PRAYING THE PSALMS

I LOVE YOUR HOUSE

Tuesday, January 16

Reading: Psalm 27

Psalm 27:4 *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.*

A sentiment that has become widespread over the past years is: “I love Jesus, but I don’t like the church.” This sad development has many reasons, from certain churches that are preaching a “different gospel” to younger generations that just aren’t interested in “institutions.” Many churches just need to figure out how to be relevant today and not live on past glories. The testimony of some Christians has soured people on the church. Whatever the reason, it is simply not biblical for believers to quit on the church.

Psalm 27 has a lot to say about God’s house. Now the place of worship in the Old Testament was very different from the New Testament church (or our church today), but all are places where people come to meet God, fellowship with one another, and worship.

In Psalm 26:8, David proclaims: “Lord, I love the house where You live, the place where Your glory dwells.” First and foremost, the church should be a place and a people that shine God’s glory. When outsiders look at the church, they should see God’s presence through His people.

In Psalm 27:4, David says he seeks “to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to see Him in His Temple.” Far too many churches today have replaced the beauty of the Lord with a popular pastor or entertainment program. Others are more boring than beautiful. And some (can you even call them churches!) are about belittling others who don’t do as they say! Our goal should always be to seek the beauty and wonder of the Lord.

“For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling...” (27:5). The church should be a place where people can come for help. Those who truly seek the Lord’s face should always find comfort, encouragement, and support in their time of need.

“At His sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.” Worship is always an important goal when God’s people get together. We are not here to satisfy our needs as much as we are here to praise the Lord. When we come with hearts full of praise, sacrifice, and repentance God takes care of the rest. We will “see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (27:13)

Twice in this psalm David states that his sole desire, his one purpose, is to seek the Lord’s face (27:4, 8). His goal is not the Lord’s blessing or the gifts from His hand. He wants to know God personally! His deepest desire is fellowship with the Almighty. To do this we must let God teach us (27:11) and wait for the Lord (27:14) instead of rushing ahead with our own plans.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Jesus died for the church (Ephesians 5:25) and He promised: “I will build My church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18). Can you say you love the church? How can you pray for your church today? What can you do to help your church grow and reach others for Christ?

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.