

Psalm 84

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place  
 O Lord of Hosts !  
 My soul longs, yea faints  
 for the courts of the Lord;  
 my heart and flesh sing for joy  
 to the living God. Psalm 84: 1-2 RSV

The theme of this wonderful little psalm is the blessedness that belongs to one who is in touch with the living God. In the first four verses the psalmist is setting before us the advantages of life with God -- God at home within his people. Now of course when the Psalmists talked about the dwelling place of God they meant the temple in Jerusalem. In the holy of holies within the temple was a strange and mysterious light which marked the presence of God. Into that holy place no Israelite was permitted to enter, except for the high priest, and he only once a year. When the Israelites came into the temple, though they could not physically enter the holy of holies to be in the presence of God there, in their hearts and minds, as they appreciated and understood the truth pictured by their sacrifices and other things, they entered in spirit into the holy of holies. That is what the psalmist is now singing about.

When we as Christians talk about the dwelling place of God, we learn from the New Testament that we are talking about our bodies. Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 that our bodies are the "temple" of the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Therefore we can read the words of this psalm and take them as an expression of the excitement that comes because of the presence of God within our bodies.

There are three things that the psalmist sees here that mark his experience along this line.

The first thing the psalmist sees is an inner beauty that God creates by His presence: "How lovely is your dwelling place O God." The place where God lives, the heart where God dwells, becomes a lovely place, a beautiful spot.

The second thing is that he creates a compelling hunger: "My soul longs, yea faints for the courts of the Lord." Have you ever felt this way? Have you known a deep-seated yearning to have more of the glory of God ; more of the sense of His presence in your life ? Have you fed upon His word and been satisfied, and yet as you went away, felt a hunger for more ?

This is why we sometimes sing in the words of a hymn:

We taste thee O Thou Living Bread,  
 And long to feed upon Thee still,  
 We drink of Thee the Fountainhead,  
 And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

If you are new or visiting; *a special warm welcome to you.*  
 We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

THE PLAN

Singing
Worship
Quick Break
Singing
Children to Sunday school
Stephen Clark

*This Week*

**Today**

- Psalm 84 - Stephen Clark
- Japanese Christian Fellowship - 5pm

**Friday**

- Women's Prayer Meeting - 98 Glenross St at 11:30am
- Youth Group - Meet at the corner chapel at 6:30pm

*Next Week*

**Sunday**

- Julian Dodds from the Barnabus Fund

*Prayer Requests*

- Pray for next weeks service
- There is a large number of young teenagers in JCF and elsewhere that would lend itself to a youth program. Pray for wisdom as we consider opportunities for a Sunday evening service.

The third thing is the joyful vitality that the presence of God gives: "My heart and flesh sing for joy to the Living God." This is an exciting experience and is exactly what God has meant life to be like. This is not an artificial excitement. It is not something put on - it is not a mask - but it is the real thing. This psalmist is struggling to set before us the reality of the excitement of God's presence.

## Notes

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## Small Groups

### Tuesday

- Ladies Home Group - see Laura Hannah 473-7954
- Mornington Home Group - see Jonathan Gauntlett 453-4195
- Central Home Group - see Steve Clark 479-2070

### Wednesday

- Pine Hill Home Group - see John Hannah 473-7954

### Thursday

- Brockville Home Group - see Geoffrey Stewart 476-7888

### Friday

- Halfway Bush Home Group - see Gideon Chang 476-7101

## NOTICES

- 1) If you would like to receive **copies of the information** that is sent to the church and often finds its way to the foyer please email Zibi John to advise him you would like to receive this. [zbjohn@gmail.com](mailto:zbjohn@gmail.com)
- 2) **FAIRY LIGHTS NEEDED!** If you have any Christmas lights or fairy lights that you are happy to lend out for a week or two, please contact Nathan or Rachel Pettigrew on 473-9326.
- 3) **Age Concern** is calling for **volunteers** for their 'Friendly Voices' services. This is a free telephone service the aim of which is to enhance the well-being and quality of life of older people who are socially isolated. See Alan Knight for a pamphlet and more details if you are interested in volunteering.
- 4) The **Metro Cinema** under the Town Hall is currently showing a film called "**As It Is In Heaven**". *A successful international conductor suddenly interrupts his career and returns alone to his childhood village in Norrland, in the far north of Sweden. It doesn't take long before he is asked to come and listen to the fragment of a church choir, which practices every Thursday in the parish hall - just to come along and give a little bit of good advice. He can't say no, and from that moment, nothing in the village is the same again. The choir develops and grows. He makes both friends and enemies. And he finds love.* Phone the cinema on 471-9635 for more information and screening times.
- 5) The content needs to be updated on the **website**. Alan/Zibi are looking for up to date information, some photographs are required for the site. If you have any information pertaining to The Cornerstone church activities that you would like included please see Alan Knight or Zibi John.
- 6) **Giving by automatic payment** can be made into the following account - **Wray Street Gospel Chapel 030903 0379365 00**. Envelope numbers for donations can be obtained from Fienie or Sue.