

## The House of the Lord

**Psalm 122:1** I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

- HOUSE = HEBREW “BAYITH” & GREEK “OIKIA” = dwelling, habitation, shelter, abode, place, receptacle, home, household, family, temple
- The word “house” is used figuratively in Scripture to denote a sense of FAMILY.

**Exodus 20:2** I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

- When we got saved, we changed masters, families, even kingdoms!
- The stronger the Christian, the stronger their sense of connection to the HOUSE of the Lord, even to the physical place where God’s family meets!

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14** <sup>13</sup>It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; <sup>14</sup>So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

**2 Chronicles 7:12-15** <sup>12</sup>And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. <sup>13</sup>If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; <sup>14</sup>If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup>Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. <sup>16</sup>For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

**Psalm 5:7** But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

**Psalm 26:3** LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

**Psalm 27:4-6** <sup>4</sup>One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. <sup>5</sup>For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. <sup>6</sup>And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

THEREFORE = “THAT’S WHY!”

**Psalm 92:13** Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**Psalm 84:10** For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

- A day in the presence of God is better than a thousand spent elsewhere! Not a year, month or week, but a day. The very least portion of God is greater than the greatest portion of the world.
- Your worst day in the church is better than your best years in the world!
- The Psalmist’s phrase can be understood in three basic ways from the original language:

### 1. The gate was the furthest extremity of the Temple – HUMILITY

- “I would choose rather to sit at the threshold ...”
- The doorkeeper has only the faintest glimpse of the temple glories, hears the least of its music, tastes little of its delicacies; yet the psalmist is more content on the doorstep than in the world!
- Even a glimpse of Jesus is better than ages spent serving the pleasures of the world.

### 2. The doorkeepers indicated here were sons of Korah – GRACE

- “I had rather be a doorkeeper ...”
- From the introduction to this Psalm, we understand that it was “for the sons of Korah” - their ancestor Korah was the one who led the rebellion against Moses in Numbers 16.
- Korah was jealous because the honors of the priesthood had been given exclusively to Aaron; he felt that his service in the Tabernacle was inferior, so he rebelled with Dathan and Abiram.
- The earth opened and swallowed them; fire went out from God and consumed 250 others; the next morning 14,700 members of the murmuring congregation were destroyed by plague.
- Korah’s sons later became prominent in the Levitical service, so they had obviously separated themselves from their father’s jealous act of rebellion. They had an attitude of gratitude!
- They were happy to bear burdens and open doors for the Lord in appreciation of His mercy!

### 3. The doorkeepers could not move from their station – LOVE

- “I would rather be fixed to a post in the house of my God, than live at liberty ...”
- This statement alludes to the ancient law concerning servants in Exodus 21:5-6. If they did not desire to leave the Master’s house, they had their ear bored to the doorpost. They were – figuratively and literally – forever tied to the Master’s house and a place of service.
- The writer of this psalm preferred bonds of duty far over the greatest liberty among the wicked.

Our English phrase “siren song” comes from ancient Greek mythology. Sirens were a group of creatures also known as “sea nymphs” having the head of a woman and the body of a bird. They had voices of such sweetness that mariners who heard their songs were lured to destruction on the rocks where they sang. The Greek hero Odysseus was able to pass their island with safety only because he stopped the ears of his companions with wax and had himself firmly lashed to the mast of his ship so he could not follow them. Hence, a “siren song” is an alluring or seductive appeal, especially one that is deceptive.

- WE MUST FIX OURSELVES TO A POST OF HOLINESS TO AVOID THE WORLD’S APPEAL.
- YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A BENEFIT TO YOU, NOT TO GOD!
  - **Job 22:3** Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?
  - **Job 35:7** If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?

Why do Christians come together and worship God? Why do they leave the comfort of their homes and drive to a place where they’ll face the parking lot, the cold, the heat, the standing, the sitting, the preaching, the music and the challenges? Why do they spend time, money and energy for such a cause? Because God created needs in us that push us toward His house!

#### **The house is a place of safety**

- Safe to ask questions!
- Safe to confess sin!
- Safe to bring a friend!
- Safe to express yourself!

#### **The house is a place of connection**

- The church should know how to party!

#### **The house is a place of many rooms**

- A church’s ministries are its rooms!
- We need to do some “decorating” to make our rooms appealing and some “remodeling” to make them relevant!

#### **The house is a place of nourishment**

- How a shepherd feeds his flock - Psalm 23:1-6

**Psalm 23:1-6** <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

#### **The house is a place of education**

- B – Bible
- A – Attributes of God
- S – Spirit of God
- I – Identity in Christ – WHO I AM
- C – Calling – WHAT I DO
- S – Sin – how to overcome it

#### **The house is a place of love**

- Love is best expressed in the little deeds we call “common courtesy”

May God keep you ...

- broken enough to mend others
- well enough to enjoy others
- hungry enough to feed others
- wandering enough to find the lost
- secure enough to present the truth
- home enough to enjoy the blessings
- out enough to see the broken
- fresh enough to inspire others
- weary enough to remain anchored in Him
- blind enough to believe Him anyway
- real enough to be touched by the hurting
- numb enough to endure the storm
- sensitive enough to feel others’ pain
- weeping enough to remain dependent
- joyful enough to continue on
- strong enough to reach the weak
- weak enough to reach out to the strong
- growing and changing!