



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

“He is My Sanctuary”

Psalm 84

June 23, 2013 A.M. Worship

Dwelling in the Sanctuary of God Vs 1-4

- Our Love
- Our Longing *Psalm 63*
- Our Look
- Our Life

Drawing on the Strength of God Vs 5-8

- Our Heart is Right
- Our Highway is Rough
- Our Hope Is Real

Delighting in the Service of God Vs 9-12

- Our Prayer
- Our Pursuit
- Our Praise
 - ✓ He is Our Sun
 - ✓ He is Our Shield
 - ✓ He is Our Source

Our Response:

1. Has there ever been that moment where you have prayed to the Father and asked Him to come into your heart and take control of your life? Would you give Him your heart & life today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
2. Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. Be obedient!
3. Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ! Be obedient and join a church!
4. May we like the Psalmist long to be in the presence of the Lord more than anything else. May we commit our lives afresh and anew to His presence in our daily lives, both as we begin our days and then all throughout the day to live in His presence – in His Sanctuary!
5. May we long to be in His Sanctuary – His church and love to be in His presence worshiping God with the saints of God before the throne of God! May we recommit ourselves to passionate worship of God in this sanctuary. May we reprioritize our lives to make certain that we make time to worship Him on His day and put aside any excuses that keep us from being here!
6. May we be a Sanctuary that the living God can work through to reach a lost, dying and hurting world. May they see Jesus in you and me this week!
7. May we remember this week Verss 11 that “No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly”. May we walk uprightly with Him this week and as we do so watch for Him to bless us in immeasurable ways!

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

“The Lord is My Sanctuary”

Psalms 84 & 63

June 23, 2013 AM Service

3 different pictures we can see here in this Psalm

1. The reference for the Jew of the day and the importance of temple worship, perhaps written by someone who couldn't get there, or perhaps written during the exile when they were far away from the temple. The temple had huge significance for them as it represent the presence of God. His presence was not limited to that place, just the place designated to come and worship Him and where He allowed His presence to rest.
2. The next picture is the main one we will focus on and has a two-fold application and meaning for us today. 1st is the idea that a Sanctuary like this one is important and is a place set aside specifically for the point of corporate worship of God by the saints of God. It is an important place, a place of significance and importance for the follower of Christ. So it is a Sanctuary. The 2nd idea is that of our lives being the Sanctuary of God. The Word tells us that our bodies are the temples or sanctuaries of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19) So we desire the place to worship God and we desire the presence of God in our daily lives whether in a sanctuary like this one or in our job tomorrow at 10 a.m. in a meeting or at home, or at school, wherever we are – we long and desire Him!
3. The final picture is one of heaven – looking forward to that day when we will be with Jesus, that better is one day in your presence than a thousand elsewhere. He gives us a glimpse of heaven, the joy of heaven, the blessing of heaven, the point of heaven – worshiping face to face our Savior and our Lord Jesus with every tribe, tongue and nation!

ILLUS: **guide taking people through a great cathedral in Europe** pointing out it's incredible design, it's exquisite statues and wonderful paintings. The older lady was unimpressed and at the conclusion of the tour asked How many souls have been saved here this year? My dear lady he responded this is a cathedral, not a chapel. Oh my – though a beautiful building here – may it be a place where people meet the Lord face to face

and forever changed and transformed by the power and grace of God! May it not be the grandness of this building but the greatness of our God that is being made known here! The preaching of the Word and the all-consuming worship of God inside the building mark its true greatness!

Dwelling in the Sanctuary of God Vs 1-4

▪ **Our Love** Vs 1

Your dwelling places – Temple (then) Sanctuary now and the most important – heaven itself. But for today – love for His Sanctuary – and today that would be the church. Do you consider worshiping here at Petal FBC lovely – do you love her as Jesus loves her? Oh the love we are called to have for the church of the living God because He loves it so! How we should have a deep abiding love for heaven – for it will one day be the home for those who are followers of Jesus Christ. Heaven – indescribable, John tried, others attempted but no doubt all fall short of the magnificence, wonder, and beauty of heaven.

▪ **Our Longing** Vs 2 Psalm 63:1-8 & Psalm 42:1-2

What a powerful cry here. It has been said that the desires of our heart are the best proofs of our salvation. We can counterfeit the things we say, even the things that we do, but we cannot counterfeit the things we want. Look at these Psalms – does this describe your relationship with the Lord? We desire and long for a lot of things – we have only have to look at what we did with out time, money and resources this last week, month, and year to know. Oh church that we would all have a deep desire, panting, and thirsting for the Lord God Almighty! What a difference it would make in our lives and those around us!

▪ **Our Look** Vs 3

The Sparrow, Swallow – 2 different birds remind him to look up Our look is toward the Sanctuary – toward Him. These birds remind us to look up to the sky – towards heaven. They also remind us that the Lord takes care of even these birds, even they make their home in His Sanctuary – He was jealous of them that they could be so close to the temple courts and the altar. Can I encourage you to turn your gaze towards Him? May I ask you – where is your heart at home today?

ILLUS: Song – “Come and Make My Heart Your Home”

- **Our Life** Vs 4

We have said it before, but let us say it again, those who come to the Sanctuary to worship Him, those who dwell in your house – both corporately and privately will be blessed. DO you really want to be blessed by God? We are called to bless God by our worship, but we are more blessed because we are touched by the love of God as we dwell in Him and with Him! This was the Psalmists life, his priority and his passion, was to be a true worshiper, one who was ever praising the Father. Do we long for that kind of life? That kind of life brings great blessings upon our lives – His presence, His peace, His power, His purpose, His blessings in our lives... That's why those who dwell in His house are blessed!

- **Drawing on the Strength of God** Vs 5-8

Who are those who can draw on the strength of the Lord? Those who dwell in the Sanctuary – in the presence of the Lord. And here the Psalmist give us a further description. See if this describes you.

- **Our Heart is Right** Vs 5

What highway is your heart on today? What path are you walking today? Are you on the wide road or the narrow road ([Matt 7:13-14](#))? Where are you headed today? The man who is blessed, the one who has strength in the Lord is the one whose heart leads to Zion. In other words, find what is in a man's heart and you will find where he is headed. **ILLUS: Yellow Brick Road.** So do you know the Lord today? Are you on that path that leads to eternal life? If not, you can do that today. You can make a exit of the highway that leads to death and get on the highway that leads to life. Admit – get off, and turn around, Ask, Believe – this is the only way I can go, and Confess – put that car in drive, let the Lord take over the driver's seat and hang on! For the child of God, we are on the highway to heaven, but sometimes we get detoured, we get sidetracked, sin knocks us off it seems, yet we are reminded that the Lord will keep us on this road and get us safely home.

- **Our Highway is Rough** Vs 6-7

Weeping in the Valley - the Word *baca* means to weep some kind of balsam tree – they love dry areas, desserts, valleys. Do you find yourself in one of those today? Great news, He is there, draw your

strength in the Lord.

Walking on the Mountain Sometimes we are on the mountain top, as we draw our strength to strength, on Mt. Zion. Enjoy those days, and let them deepen you and prepare you for those valley days.

NO matter where we may be today – in the valley – then we make it a spring – we find the blessing there or if it is in the mountain we find Him there or somewhere in between –it’s not where we are that matters the most – it’s what we are doing when we are there.

■ **Our Hope Is Real** Vs 8

We know that the Lord hears our prayers. He listens to us.

He is not some false god, we have to yell or scream, or cut ourselves, or do some crazy things to get his attention. He is listening, He is ready to answer His children when we call on His name. Remember, He is not the cosmic genie waiting to give us our every want. But prayer born out of a sincere heart, God does not refuse. Now that is hope! And remember, just because He might not answer it the way we wanted, doesn’t mean He didn’t answer, it is just that our Father knows better than we do. Today isn’t just well, I hope so, but my hope is in You!!

Delighting in the Presence of God Vs 9-12

As we are in the Sanctuary we continually gain a new perspective of delighting in the service of God, not dreading it, avoiding it, retiring from it, but instead finding great joy and delight in serving our King. What a privilege!

- **Our Prayer** Vs 9 - Here he is praying for the king – why? Because the Psalmist knew that the future of the Messianic promise rested with the line of King David and he wanted the Messiah to come. It too is another reminder for us to pray for those in leadership over us – oh my we are a crucial crossroads in our country and next Sunday we will set aside a time to pray for our nation specifically as we also honor our armed forces too.

■ **Our Pursuit** Vs 10

May we say as we leave today that better is one day in your courts, even right outside it the Sanctuary on the steps than a thousand of my best days anywhere else on planet earth much less compared to dwell in the

tents of the wicked. Rather be some lowly servant in the temple to be exalted by the world and surrounded by the wicked.

■ **Our Praise** Vs 11-12

✓ **He is Our Sun**

To men and women of faith, the Lord is all they need. He is to them what the sun is to our universe — the source of life and light.

Without the sun, life would vanish from the earth, and without God, we would have neither physical life (Acts 17:24-28) nor spiritual life

✓ **He is Our Shield**

God is our provision and our protection. He is the giving God, and He gives grace and glory — grace for the journey and glory at the end of the journey

✓ **He is Our Source**

If we walk by faith, then whatever begins with grace will ultimately end with glory. God does not give us everything we want, but He bestows upon us all that is good for us, all that we need.