

ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD

January 11, 2015

Psalm 27:1-14

"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 inquire in his temple." Psalm 27:4

I. "One thing have I desired of the Lord"

- A. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:4, 5).
- B. "One thing is needful" (Luke 10:42).
- C. "Yet lackest thou one thing" (Luke 18:22).
- D. "This one thing I do" (Phil. 3:13).

II. "That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life"

- A. Implications of dwelling: Shelter, Safety, Nurture, Comfort, Welcome
- B. "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations" (Psalm 90:1).
- C. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty" (Psalm 91:1).
- D. "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. . . . Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will still be praising thee. 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" (Psalm 84:2, 4, 10).
- E. "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15).

The "house of the Lord," the "secret place of the most High," the "courts of the Lord," and "the high and holy place" are all one. They are the place God has appointed for each soul to meet with Him, where they will know His communion. Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of God and His people. But unbroken communion with Him on earth is its prelude. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another" (I John 1:5, 6, 7).

Adam occupied the house of the Lord in the Garden of Eden, before he sinned (Gen 2:15-25). Noah knew it in the ark (Gen. 7, 8). For Abraham it was the place to which God called him when he left his homeland (Gen. 12-25). For Joseph it was the pit where his brothers cast him, Potiphar's house and prison, and upon a throne of Egypt (Gen. 37, 39). For the people of Israel it was the tabernacle in the wilderness, and the temple in Jerusalem. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego found it in the furnace of fire (Dan. 3). Wherever God's people desire Him, He will be present with them. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13).

Ultimately, the dwelling place of God's people is His Son, Jesus Christ. God "hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-6). Jesus said: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:4, 5).