

## HOW SWEET, HOW HEAVENLY

*Psalm 84:1-2*

### INTRODUCTION

- A. How lovely Your dwelling places!
  - 1. So good to be back after a three month “break.”
  - 2. Missed seeing the faces and the hugs (no hugs today!).
- B. As we worship – our focus on God.
  - 1. *To God Be the Glory!* [sing]
  - 2. A reminder of our need to worship together.

### I. LONGING TO WORSHIP, vss. 1-4.

- A. How Lovely Your Dwelling Places, vs. 1.
  - 1. This is in reference to the temple, its altars and its courts.
  - 2. The writer emphasizes the glorious experience of praising God.
  - 3. Its beauty is from its worship, not the physical beauty.
- B. Satisfaction Based on God’s Presence, vs. 2.
  - 1. “*My soul longed...*,” a lion longing for or yearning [eager] for its prey.
  - 2. Describes the continual and earnest desire for communion with God, Mt. 5:6.
  - 3. His whole being – his soul, heart and flesh – cherished the privilege of being with God.
    - a. Mark 12:30, “*...heart, soul, mind and strength.*”
    - b. With every fiber of my being.
  - 4. Based on a joy that could be found nowhere else, but in the presence of the “living God.”
- C. A Day In His Courts, vss. 10-12.
  - 1. Better Than a Thousand Outside, vs. 10.
    - a. He wants to be nowhere else. Just one day!
    - b. There is no better place to be than in worship to God.
    - c. Better to stand at the threshold than dwell in tents of wickedness.
    - d. I want to be with God’s people – safe with those who are like-minded, Phi. 2:2.
  - 2. Why Fellowship with God is Desired? vs. 11
    - a. The Lord God is a sun and shield.
      - i. God is the source of light and life [eternal], 1 Jn. 2:25!
    - b. The Lord gives grace and glory.
      - i. Grace through Jesus Christ.
      - ii. This gives our lives purpose – holding out the word of life to others.
    - c. No good thing withheld...uprightly, Ps. 15:1-2.

### II. THE JOY OF THE LORD..., Neh. 8:10.

- A. In God’s Presence.
  - 1. Separation from God. David’s lament, Ps. 51:12.
  - 2. In Thy presence is fullness of joy, Zeph. 3:14-17.
  - 3. Worship with God’s people.
    - a. With the saints who proclaim the glories of God.
    - b. Long to be in His presence in heaven, 2 Cor. 5:1-2.
    - c. *How Sweet, How Heavenly.* [sing]
- B. A Reminder – Bearing Fruit for the Lord.
  - 1. The reason Jesus came to earth.

- a. Mt. 1:21
- b. Heb. 12:2. The joy of reconciliation for His people.
- 2. His purpose is our purpose.
  - a. Jn. 15:11. Joy in bearing fruit, vs. 8.
  - b. Ambassadors for Christ, 2 Cor. 5:20.
- C. Heavenly Reward.
  - 1. Provided a heavenly home, Jn. 14:1-3.
  - 2. There is an alternative – cast into outer darkness, vs. 30.
    - a. Away from the presence of the Lord!
- D. ...Is Your Strength.
  - 1. My joy not the same as yours.
  - 2. But, our strength is in the Lord, Eph. 6:10.

## **CLOSING**

- A. How Blessed the Man Who Trusts in God, Ps. 84:12.
  - 1. Loving God and loving to worship Him should be the highpoint of a believer's life.
  - 2. The valleys and mountains seem as nothing, when walking with God.
  - 3. Our hope is in heaven and to be in the Lord's presence eternally.
- B. Heb. 12:22-24