

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 June Psalm 1 The Path
- 2) 11 June Psalm 78 The Past
- 3) 18 June Psalm 23 The Shepherd
- 4) 25 June Psalm 138 Our Response
- 5) **02 July Psalm 84 His Presence**
- 6) 09 July Psalm 95 The Creator
- 7) 16 July Psalm 19 God Revealed
- 8) 23 July Psalm 136 His Love
- 9) 30 July Psalm 146 His Faithfulness
- 10) 06 Aug Psalm 51 The Confession
- 11) 13 Aug Psalm 32 The Cleansing
- 12) 20 Aug Psalm 141 The Protector
- 13) 27 Aug Psalm 42 The Longing

INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 84 expresses excitement felt when worshiping God and being in His presence. v11. "No good thing does God withhold from the righteous" ...and it begins at our place of worship
- **Jewish Factors to Consider for this Psalm:**
 - ♦ The Jewish culture revolved around Temple worship, which included singing, teaching, sacrificing, praying, thanksgiving, and feasting (fasting for 1 day was only done once each year during the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) in Sept/Oct)
 - ♦ Recall God's House was to be a House of Prayer for all nations, where God's people would confess their sins and repent & seek His blessings. "They shall be joyful in My house of prayer for all people" **Isaiah 56:7; & cf Mat 21:13; Mk 11:17; Lk 19:46**
 - ♦ Though there were daily requirements for sacrifices, Jewish men were required to visit the Temple 3x each year:
 1. **Festival of Unleavened Bread or Passover**, 1st fruits of the Spring wheat harvest (Mar/April - Easter)
 2. **Festival of Weeks or Pentecost** (May/June), and
 3. **Festival of Booths or Tabernacles or Ingatherings** of the Fall harvest (Sep/Oct)
 - ♦ The weekly Sabbath rest did not require Temple attendance
 - ♦ Weekly synagogue worship in one's hometown became a tradition after the Jews returned from their Babylonian captivity
- **How do we view going to church each week?**

<input type="checkbox"/> It's a pleasure to look forward to <input type="checkbox"/> You miss it if you are not there <input type="checkbox"/> It's a joy to be with God's people <input type="checkbox"/> You anticipate it all week long <input type="checkbox"/> You prepare for it & invite others	<input type="checkbox"/> It's a drag <input type="checkbox"/> You don't miss at all <input type="checkbox"/> You'd rather be sleeping <input type="checkbox"/> You dread going there <input type="checkbox"/> You don't give it a thot
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Passage	Comments
84:3	<p>Even Birds Can Raise a Family in God's House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jewish Temple had open courts where people would congregate, worship, sing, and hear God's word, while birds often roosted above them in crevasses within the walls • When considering vs 2 ("My soul longs and yearns for the courts of the Lord"), the psalmist seemed envious of the birds being ever present before God in this fashion
84:4	<p>It is Good to Linger in God's House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 components to be blessed or happy in this vs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church attendance (we gotta show up) Heb 10:25 2. Choose to praise God continually • Consider this. We need to have the right elements for proper worship → be in the right spirit (proper attitude, desire) and to have God's truth (Do we need music?) John 4:24
84:5-7	<p>God Is in Our Valleys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. How does God strengthen us? Is it physical, emotional, mental/motivational, spiritual strength? • v6. When we travel through our "Valley of Baka" or place of weeping/loss/pain, how does God make it a well of refreshing water, a place of relief? • v7. How do we go from "Strength to Strength" or get stronger and stronger when we come before God in our prayer? • Consider this: The Holy Spirit provides strength to our "inner man," which only comes through sincere prayer.. Eph 3:14-16
84:8-9	<p>God is a Prayer-answering God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v8. Why would the psalmist need to ask God to hear his prayer if God is a prayer-answering God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this: God often turned a deaf ear to the prayers of His own people when they intentionally and deliberately ignored Him and refused to repent..... Jer 14:12 ♦ Confession needs to proceed petition James 5:16 • Like this psalmist, we are anointed by God, for God, so we can have confidence to approach Him 2Cor 1:21; Heb 4:16
84:10	<p>A Doorkeeper's Job Is Not an Easy One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You stand on your feet the whole time, and possibly out in the rain & cold • It would be more enjoyable to be in a nice cozy dry place with comfortable amenities – BUT, not so with a true servant and worshipper of God. Like our Lord, we may not even have a place to lay our head at times Mat 8:20 • Nothing compares with being in the presence of God, even for a moment. It is sad to comprehend that the wicked would prefer to spend an eternity in Hell than one moment before a just and holy and righteous God.
84:11-12	<p>God Would Rather Bless Than Curse or Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is God a sun (light) and a shield to us? • How does God give grace (blessings) & glory (honor) to us? • v11. No good thing does He withhold from the godly, BUT, our sins will withhold good things from us Jer 5:25 • v12. How blessed are those who trust in God? Are they independently wealthy? Do they ever suffer loss & pain? Or is our blessings more intangible, more heavenly focused?

Passage	Comments
Psalm 84:1-2	<p>Do We Yearn to be in God's House?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with the Psalmist, when we are absent from God's house, we should ache to go there, and yearn to stay there – BUT do we? If not, how do we fix that? • Our yearning shouldn't be for the physical facility, but to be in God's presence with other likeminded saints
What is more Important, Jesus or Heaven?	<p>What is more important – to be in Heaven or to be with Jesus? Consider this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus did not emphasize to the thief on the cross next to Him, that Today you will be in Heaven, but Today you will be with Me! Luke 23:43 • Stephen showed more interested in Jesus gazing upon Him prior to his martyrdom than about the wonders of Heaven which were opened before him Acts 7:55-56 • Apostle Paul did not say to be absent from the body is to be present in Heaven, but to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord 2Cor 5:8 <p>Recall that even Heaven and the Throne of God had to be created as seen in Gen 1:1. Only God is eternal, and our faith is based on a personal relationship with this eternal God and less on our heaven-bound destiny.</p> <p>Where is our heart? Is it on the pleasures of Heaven? Is it on what God can do for me? Or is our heart wholeheartedly focused on God? After all, "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may STRONGLY support those whose heart is completely His" 2Chron 16:9</p>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- If we can fully grasp this concept of why it is important for us to be in church with the attitude of anticipation and excitement, and to enthusiastically participate in the various worship activities (e.g., teaching, praying, singing, fellowshiping) we would truly be joyful in God's House of Prayer, and we would look forward to going every time the doors are open.

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 95. This psalm mixes worship & warning. We need to appropriately worship our God and take warning that we do not do it flippantly with wrong motives – i.e., what's in it for me!

