

# Grace

## Court Living

**Ps 84:10-11** For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. **11** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. **12** O LORD of hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in You!

- Psalmist was of the "sons of Korah" – of the family responsible for caring for the tabernacle and the things in it. These were people who well knew the "presence of God"
- Psalm is thought to have been written on occasion of fleeing with David as he fled from Jerusalem fleeing from Absalom's rebellion. The sons of Korah had no access to God's house.
- When something is no longer open to you, you miss it more.
- They missed the Ark of the Covenant for they left it in Jerusalem; it was no longer accessible to them. The Ark was a powerful evidence of God's presence when they were following God.
- The Ark was sometimes used as a "good luck" charm. But God will not be used in this way.

### **I. Better Inside Than Outside** (Heb for "outside" is "caphaph"-meaning "threshold"); **vs. 10a**

- The psalmist is not talking about being "outside" the house of God, but is expressing a desire to be more intimately associated with God; to be closer to his presence.
- Better to be inside, in God's presence than on the threshold of His presence.
- Though the house of God is Gibeah, His presence was in Zion. We need BOTH God's people (his house) and his presence. The Ark had been removed by David to Jerusalem; the tabernacle was still in Gibeah, in Shiloh.
- We need BOTH the intimate, personal encounter of God AND the encounter of God that only happens with the people of God.

- Jesus told the parable of the man who found a treasure and went back, sold everything and bought the entire field. There is treasure in the "land" of the church, in its dirt.
  - When we have to deal with people, we have to deal with ourselves. We must identify with God's people and in doing so we learn to identify with Christ.
  - If we want the Kingdom, we have to buy the dirt; in every relationship we need to "bring a shovel" and clean things up and HOLD to the valuable relationships of the people around you.
- "Lord, I love your courts..." There in the presence of God we see people and circumstances in ways that we can't normally see apart from God's presence.
- We love the "house of God" by loving the people that make up "the house."

**II. Better Outside** (Heb for "threshold" -> which is used interchangeably with "outside" is "caphaph"-meaning "threshold") Than Wrong Side; **vs. 10b**

### **III. Proximity Yields; vs. 11-12**

**A. Illumination** -> Sun – when we come into the house of God, things are illumined; we find light for direction, warmth for the cold heart. God has given me relationships with others that provide help, light, warmth by tying in with others.

**B. Protection** -> Shield – we find protective care & a guard thru the relationships God puts us with. God keeps us from things and in things.

**C. Favor** -> Grace – We cannot depend only upon our relationship with God. We need the light, the accountability, as well as the support that comes from others.

**D. Abundance** -> Glory – In the midst of lack, when David should have been judged, God none the less gave grace to David. Regardless how dire it becomes, there was GRACE – that which allows us to do and be everything we need to be and do; all this by God's goodness extended to us though we don't deserve it. God requires us to stretch our faith and believe in God even when we don't experience all we would like. Are we grateful for the "little" as well as the "much".

**E. Unrestrained Blessing** -> No good thing does He withhold...If God only gave us Jesus Christ, that would be enough. We must recognize and thank Him

for ALL He has done. Grace allows us to be in places where we, on our own, could never attain to on our own. We need to see what we were and thank God for his goodness; grace allows us to see the benefit of what people can & should be to you; allows you to live life beyond what you could think of or design on your own.