

Fairview Memorial Winter Bible Study

February 13, 2018

The Beauty Of The Lord

Elder Billy L. Moran

Scripture Reading - Psalms 27:1-5

The writer of the above scripture is David, the shepherd boy who became King of Israel. It is recorded in both the Old and New Testaments, that David was a man after God's own heart. What I believe to be David's experience of salvation is recorded in at least three places in Psalms, Chapters 32:1-5; 40:1-4; and 116:1-14. In our lesson, verse four, he said, ***"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 enquire in his temple."***

David also said, ***"... 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."*** (Ps. 84:10)

At his death he was entombed at Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. (Acts 2:29) I don't know if there was any inscription on his tomb, But his epitaph could have read; ***"A man after God's own heart"***.

Some thirty years ago I was quiet impress with a young preacher, by his eagerness to serve the Lord. I made a complimentary statement concerning him to one of his relatives who responded rather sarcastically, "Yeah, he is so heavenly minded he is of no earthly good". I thought that was funny at the time, but since then I have changed my mind. We need to be Heavenly Minded!

Paul admonishes us, ***"If ye be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,..... Set you affections on things above, not on things of the earth."*** (Colossians 3:1-2)

I think, when God's people become too earthly minded our worth to the kingdom of God becomes greatly diminished. We can spend so much time on worldly things, that we don't see the Beauty of the Lord as we could.

Paul's Solution

Paul said, ***"...be not conformed to this world: (Don't follow the fashion or pattern of the world) but be ye transformed (changed) by the renewing (renovating) of your mind, (intellect, our thinking and understanding faculty) that ye might prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."*** (What God wants from us) (Romans. 12:2) The Devil feeds us on the garbage of the world, @ TV, internet, social media, movies, music, etc. that we become worldly minded. But, Paul teaches us to renew our minds. (1 Thessalonians 5:16 -23) ***"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, what so ever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things"***. (Philippians 4:6-8)

David did not want to physically live in the tabernacle. That is not what he was saying. But he had great respect for the Tabernacle and what it represented. He especially wanted the **“Ark of the Covenant”**, to be near him in Jerusalem, because it, represented the place where God promised to meet with his people. King David went to great lengths to bring the Ark to the City Of David, and place **“it”** in **“His”** place. (See 2 Samuel 6:17)

The “One” thing David desired, and sought to maintain, was his relationship with the Lord. The Lord meant everything to him. He said, *“The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”*

In those days, the tabernacle was the **“House of The Lord”**. However, nothing about it was attractive from the out side. The prophet Isaiah, prophesying of Jesus, said *“... He hath no form or comeliness, and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him”*. (Isaiah 53:2) Some say Jesus was ugly, and deformed. I don’t believe that. I believe he was the most perfect specimen of a man that ever lived. He was greatly disfigured, after the Romans finished beating him. The scriptures does say, *“... many were astonished at thee, his visage (his face) was so marred, more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men”*: (Isaiah 52:14) and this was the result of the beatings he endured.

I believe as David beheld the physical structure of the tabernacle with the furniture contained therein, with the natural beauty it possessed within; he was seeing, albeit, in the spirit, the things they represented, and that was the **“Beauty of the Lord”**. His desired to behold this beauty all the days of his earthly life. We talk about the good time we’re going to have in Heaven with Jesus; but I’m here to affirm, you can have a good time with Jesus here on earth. (See Psalms 23)

That brazen alter was not pretty. The Sacrifice of animals and the stench of blood and burning flesh, Not pretty! Beauty is in understanding the meaning of the Sacrifice, that enables us to be wash, and cleaned from our sins. He could see Jesus tasting death for every man.

Then step through the door into the holy place, if your relationship is right, You’ll see in that table of shewbread, Jesus as the bread of Life, the altar of incense, Jesus making intercession for us, (making intercession for the transgressors. as we confess our daily sins, and are cleansed continually, and, that lamp stand, made of one piece of solid gold. They did not make a mold and pour it, It was fashioned by beating it into a desired pattern. And, Jesus as the light of the world.

Then we look through the vail, which represented his flesh, the ark of the covenant, that kept the broken law of God, and the mercy seat that covered the broken law. And above were the cherubs over shadowed the mercy seat. He wanted to gaze (look steadily and intently, with admiration upon that picture, and enjoy his fellowship every day, in the knowledge that when the temporal has ended and eternity begins, that he will dwell (or live) in the House of the Lord for ever.

In closing I want to read Psalms 90, verses 12, 14, 16 and 17.