

THE GROUND OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S DAY MORNING, AUGUST 1, 2010
MESSAGE FOUR

**ENJOYING CHRIST WITH GOD ON
THE GROUND OF ONENESS**

I. God's concept of worship – to eat and rejoice

Deuteronomy 12:6-7—And there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and your vows and your freewill offerings and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock; **7** And there you shall eat before Jehovah your God, and you and your households shall rejoice in all your undertakings, in which Jehovah your God has blessed you.

A. Dwelling in the house of the Lord

Psalms 23:6—Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me / All the days of my life, / And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah / For the length of my days.

B. One desire

Psalms 27:4—One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

C. Enjoying Christ's riches

Psalms 36:8-9—They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. **9** For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

D. Going with the multitude to the house of God

Psalms 42:4—These things I remember, / And I pour out my soul within me: / That I passed through with the throng; / I led them to the house of God / With the voice of a joyous shout and praise, / The festal multitude.

E. Light and truth

Psalms 43:3—Send forth Your light and Your truth; / They will lead me; / They will bring me to Your holy mountain / And to Your tabernacles.

F. Presenting our offerings to the Lord

Psalms 66:13—I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; / I will pay my vows to You,

G. Subdued by coming to God's chosen place

Colossians 3:15—And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

H. Incense to God

Psalms 66:15—I will offer to You burnt offerings of fatlings / With the smoke of rams; / I will offer cattle with goats. Selah

I. The loveliness of God's dwelling places

Psalms 84:1-2—How lovely are Your tabernacles, / O Jehovah of hosts! **2** My soul longs, indeed even faints, / For the courts of Jehovah; / My heart and my flesh cry out / To the living God.

1. Sparrows and swallows finding a home at the Lord's altars

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Psalm 84:3—At Your two altars even the sparrow has found a home; / And the swallow, a nest for herself, / Where she may lay her young, / O Jehovah of hosts, my King and my God.

2. Praising the Lord all the day long

Psalm 84:4—Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; / They will yet be praising You. Selah

3. Having our strength in God

Psalm 84:5a, 7—Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, 7 They go from strength to strength; / Each appears before God in Zion.

4. Having our heart filled with the ways of God

Psalm 84:5b—In whose heart are the highways to Zion.

5. Making the Valley of Baca a well

Psalm 84:6—Passing through the valley of Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings.

6. Preferring to be a doorkeeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness

Psalm 84:10—For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand; / I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God / Than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

7. The church life being the place of fullest blessing

Psalm 84:11-12—For Jehovah God is a sun and a shield; / Jehovah gives grace and glory; / He does not withhold anything good / From those who walk uprightly. 12 O Jehovah of hosts, blessed is the man / Who trusts in You.

- J. Exalted, mingled, planted, and flourishing

Psalm 92:10, 13, 14—But You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; / I am anointed with fresh oil. 13 Planted in the house of Jehovah, / They will flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They will still bring forth fruit in old age; / They will be full of sap and green;

- K. Dwelling together in oneness

Psalm 133:1-3—Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity! 2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments; 3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- L. God's requirement

Colossians 3:11—Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

II. The blessing of life under the anointing oil and the watering dew on the ground of oneness

John 17:21-23—That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me. 22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one; 23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

- A. Good and pleasant (Psalm 133:1)
- B. Precious ointment and dew (Psalm 133:2-3)
- C. A person (Aaron) and a place (Zion)
- D. The spreading ointment and the descending dew

1. Anointed with the processed Triune God

Exodus 30:23-26—You also take the finest spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred fifty shekels, and of fragrant calamus

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two hundred fifty shekels, **24** And of cassia five hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. **25** And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a perfume compounded according to the perfumer's art; it shall be a holy anointing oil. **26** And with it you shall anoint the Tent of Meeting and the Ark of the Testimony,

2. The grace of life as the supply of life descending upon the mountains of Zion, the local churches

1 Peter 3:7—Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- E. For the Head with the Body

Ride home: Pray-read Psalm 23:6 and Psalm 27:4. Reread the entire outline with all of the verses.