

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Hope for this life

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Paul writes, “*If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are all men most pitiable*” (1 Corinthians 15:19). Paul focuses our attention upon our hope of a bodily resurrection that will carry us to eternity in heaven. As we read yearly through the New Testament, our minds are unified in “*one hope*” (Ephesians 4:4), located in “*heaven*” (Colossians 1:5), which still lies ahead to strengthen “*patience*” in obtaining (Romans 8:25). Anchored in revealed truth, may a Christian hope for desires to be fulfilled in this life? Notice Paul did not nullify hope for fulfilled blessings in this life, but declared we are objects of pity if we “*only*” hope in Christ in this life.

David, a man after God’s own heart, revealed his desires to be fulfilled in his lifetime. Psalms 27 reveals two of them for your consideration. David writes, “*One thing have I asked of Jehovah, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Jehovah and to inquire in His temple*” (Psalms 27:4).

David lived his life with the temple of Jehovah being a tent which housed the ark of the covenant. God’s authoritative

presence was there over the ark as it occupied a protective place under the tent (1 Chronicles 15:1, 16:1, 17:1, 5; cf. Exodus 25:10-22). God met with appointed religious leaders of Israel above the ark, beginning with Moses, to guide His people (Exodus 25:22).

David seems to convey these realities when speaking of the temple of his day. It is the place where he could behold the beauty of God’s holiness, and inquire, or seek Him in His temple.

David describes the abiding place of God in four ways. It is the “*house of Jehovah*” emphasizing the household or family relationship God had with Israel (Psalms 27:4a). It is God’s “*temple*,” pointing to the place of God’s holy presence where one can seek or inquire of Him (Psalm 27:4). It is a stretched out “*pavilion*” where one can hide like in a lion’s den (Psalms 27:5a). And finally, it is a “*tabernacle*” or tent where one can hide in a secret place in times of trouble and offer sacrifices joy unto God when He delivers His people from trouble (Psalms 27:6).

Today, the church is God’s temple (1 Corinthians 3:16). Christians, keeping their bodies pure, comprise the church

(1 Corinthians 6:19), the house or family of God (1 Timothy 3:15). We assemble together at least twice a week to worship our holy God by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We inquire of Him by studying His holy Word and seek Him through prayer. On the first day of the week, we gather together to remember the Lord’s death by partaking of the Lord’s supper, and by giving of our means as we have prospered.

The temple in David’s day was the place where he wanted to dwell all the days of his life. He not only asked God for this blessing, but sought it as an important “*one thing*.” Does your attitude toward the local church today reflect the sought-out desire David had for the house of God in the days of his life?

The church can be your protective place to keep you strong against our enemy the Devil. It can be your joyous place for continual worship. It can be your inquiring place for the second blessing David wanted to be fulfilled while he was “*in the land of the living*”: be delivered from the cruelty of his enemies (Psalms 27:12-13). Meeting together we can encourage one another as we “*wait for Jehovah’s goodness*” in this life (Psalms 27:13-14).