

Scripture Reading: Psalm 84:1-12
Sermon Title: The Pilgrim's Promise

The Pilgrim's Passion:

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! ²My soul yearns, even faints, for **the courts of the Lord**; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalm 84:1-2

whose hearts are set on pilgrimage...till each appears **before God in Zion**
v5b & v7b

Better is one day in **your courts** than a thousand elsewhere
v10

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹**So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.**
2 Corinthians 5:6-9

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶**They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.** ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸**As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.** ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
John 17:15-19

The pilgrim's passion is for God & His purposes.

The Pilgrim's Promises:

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! ²My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—**a place near your altar**, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

v1-3

God's presence is our home—we return to it & build from it.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are **ever praising you**.
v4

God provides reasons for praise—will we look for them.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. ⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baka, **they make it a place of springs**; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

v5-6

The enemy of contentment isn't desire—it's deceit.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned** the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:12-13

Contentment in God is not something we're born with—it's something we learn.

They go **from strength to strength**, till each appears before God in Zion.
v7

There are no 'good ole days' for the Christian.

Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.
Ecclesiastes 7:10

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before...
Ecclesiastes 12:1

'The glory of this present house **will be greater** than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."
Haggai 2:9

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2 Corinthians 3:18

Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.⁹ Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.
v8-9

God strengthens & satisfies people who depend on & seek Him.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.¹² **Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.**
v10-12

Trust from the heart

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; **I would rather** be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield; **the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold** from those whose walk is blameless.

v10-11

Trust with our hands

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose **walk is blameless.**

v10-11

Trusting God well entails doing the right things for the right reasons.

Trusting God well entails doing the hard things when their hard.

“This hill, though high, I covet to ascend; The difficulty will not me offend. For I perceive the way to life lies here. Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear. Better, though difficult, the right way to go, than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.”

-John Bunyan. The Pilgrim's Progress

God blesses obedience—we will trust Him.

Claiming The Promises:

We claim the promises of God by delighting in God for God & walking in obedience.

Work your desire muscle.

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
Psalm 34:10

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

Isaiah 26:8

Stack simple obedience.

Make bold requests.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Because Jesus is gracious & powerful, there's always grace for the gaps in my life.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16