

Summer in the Psalms

The songs that Jesus sang

Knowing the Presence of God – Psalm 84

July 10, 2022

"I pray that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has, by the riches of his grace, brought us from a state of enmity into this glorious fellowship with himself, may give you such a taste of his sweetness and excellence in this communion as to be stirred up to a greater longing for that eternal enjoyment of him in eternal glory."- John Owen

God is near. By his Spirit, God has come to dwell in his Church and in our hearts. But what does this mean?

As we begin our summer series in the Psalms, Lewis Roderick takes us to number 84 and a song of delight in God's Presence which is nearer than we think; to be known in our hearts, not just understood with our heads and vitally needed every day.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Before listening to this message, how did you understand the presence of God? In what way might this have changed?
- Remember back to a time of true intimacy with God? How did that come about?
- As specifically as you can be, what might need to change in your life in order to cultivate communion with God? What habits might you introduce daily/weekly in order to live with a greater awareness of God's presence.
- Consider Romans 8:15, 16. Read it slowly, a few times over, pausing and praying at every impulse by the Spirit. Allow your heart to awaken to this glorious gospel:

"¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."