

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 11/6/2011

Title: "In Hot pursuit of His Presence"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study in the Psalms" (Ps. 62:8)

Text: Psalm 16
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

The Goal: The Pleasure of his Presence (11)

The Game Plan: How shall we get there?

1. Trust his Promises

- Promises for provision (6), protection (9), preservation (1-2), and the path to life (11).

2. Make him your Portion (5)

- God "portioned" land for Israel's tribes, excluding Levi, for "The Lord is his inheritance" (Deut 10:9).

3. Place him before your Eyes (8)

- "Put on God glasses and keep them on all day" (Phil 4:8; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Pet 4:11).

4. Purposefully Pursue him - i.e., go where he is

- Where is He? His glory is everywhere, yes (Psalm 19). But He is in some places in special ways. We see Him in His Word (2 Corinthians 3:18), in the corporate gathering of His people (Psalm 63:1-2).

5. Praise him (7)

- "Bless" could be translated, "praise." It means to "speak goodness" of and to the Lord.

6. Make his People a Priority (3)

- 90% of the Psalm is vertical, toward God. Then, 10% is horizontal, about people. Why? It's really still about God. These are the people who "have no good apart from you," on whom God has set His love.

A Connection: What do people have to do with his presence?

- God's presence is a major theme throughout Scripture. God's presence was in Eden with his people. They were removed from His presence. Then, His presence is promised throughout the Old Testament (tabernacle, temple, etc.). The New Testament people of God are the very place of God's presence (1 Pet 2:5; 1 Cor 14:24-25). So, we must meet together (Heb 10:24ff).

A Test Case: The Priority of Sunday Morning

- Two Issues at DSC: 1) carelessness about coming regularly, 2) carelessness about coming on time. Both are addressed by focusing on the second.
- Qualifications: There are many understandable circumstances, and no one is specifically in mind.
- The Problem: At the start of service the room is full with approx. 20% of the people who will be there.
- Reasons to Come Early: 1) Reverence for God, 2) Respect for others, those who plan and execute and serve in the service, 3) To set an example to our children of what's really important, 4) To demonstrate to visitors that "God is among us" (1 Cor 14), 5) To get as much of what we actually need as we can (God!). Rarely does someone fall away from the faith who was regular and early.
- Practical Suggestions: 1) Prep on Saturday night, 2) Plan to be early and take into consideration various time-taking factors, 3) Listen for the band when they start playing 1 minute before the service starts.
- Charles Spurgeon: "There should be some preparation of the heart in coming to the worship of God. Consider who he is and in whose name we gather, and surely we cannot rush together without thought. Consider whom we profess to worship, and we shall not hurry into his presence as men run to a fire. . . There should be no stumbling to the place of worship half-asleep. . . We cannot expect to profit much if we bring with us a swarm of idle thoughts and a heart crammed with vanity."

Sample Questions

- How can we connect God's promise to be our "portion" with our ongoing struggle with sin?
- How can we place God before our eyes? What about us or our circumstances make that difficult for us?
- What does our timeliness say about us? What does it communicate to others (God, visitors, etc.).