

THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD OUR GOD

February 8, 2015

Psalm 27

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.”

Psalm 27:4

In this psalm David expressed his one desire: “that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” This yearning for communion with God should characterize all of God’s people. Every desire of life must be subservient to this one desire.

David’s motivation was that he might “behold the beauty of the Lord, and . . . enquire in his temple.” Moses expressed similar sentiment when he prayed, “let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us” (Psa. 90:17). What is the beauty of the Lord?

In four passages the phrase “beauty of holiness” occurs (I Chron. 16:29; II Chron. 20:21; Psa. 29:2; 96:9). Each of these has reference to worship, and together they show us that holiness is a beauty in God that should be sought by men. Thus, our worship should admire the reality of God’s holiness, and be directed toward cultivating that holiness in us.

“Holiness is the beauty of God himself, he is glorious in it; it is the beauty of angels, it makes them so glorious as they are; and it is the beauty of saints, it is what makes them like unto Christ, and by which they are partakers of the divine nature; and in the exercise of holy graces, and in the discharge of holy duties, should they worship the Lord” (John Gill).

The beauty of the Lord can be seen by all who truly desire to behold it. It is seen in the creation. God made all that is and pronounced it good. Nature’s beauty is the handiwork of the God of beauty. It can be seen in Scripture, not only for the supreme literary quality of the Holy Bible, but especially in the saving message that it reveals. It can be seen in saints who’ve truly believed and submitted to Christ’s lordship. Although God’s beauty is never seen perfectly in redeemed sinners, yet their lives should provide a glimpse of God’s beauty.

Ultimately, God’s beauty is seen in Jesus Christ. Only those who look to him by faith will behold this beauty. And by beholding Him, they ultimately become like Him.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

“ . . . Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1b, 2).

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor. 3:18).