

Sermon Outlines

God Our Home

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1)

Few words have such a sweet, strange power as “Home”. “No place like home.” It is not quite accidental that the French language has no word for “home”. Three sweetest, purest, dearest words in the English language are said to be: “Jesus - Mother - Home.” Here we have “God our Home” (vs. 1, 9). Compare Psalm 90:1 and take opening verses of two Psalms together: death (Psa.90) and life (Psa. 91), and God our Home the secret of both. Our text is a Hebrew parallelism, not an example of tautology: it represents our duty and God’s acknowledgment - loving faith answered by faithful love.

I. *The Believer’s Life*

1. His Divine Relationship - “Most High” - Cf. use in Genesis 14 and occasionally throughout Old Testament. Denotes God’s Separateness, Supremacy, Majesty and Holiness.
2. His Privileged Position - “secret place” - word used in various ways: e.g., David’s hiding-place - central tent of general (Psa. 31:20) - Holy of Holies in Tabernacle (Psa. 27:5) - i.e., union and communion with God. All this in Christ (Isa. 9:6 - Wonderful, or secret). Cf Greek mystery.
 - (a) Secret of Word of God. Cf. cursory reading of letter or book and entering into thought and heart of writer.
 - (b) Communion with God. Cf. talking and having fellowship. Some souls never able to enter the “secret place.”
 - (c) Love of God. Cf. respect and love - esteem and affection.
 - (d) Purpose of God. Cf. making plans with acquaintance and fellowship with co-workers.
3. His Constant Attitude - “dwelleth” - fixed, settled, habitual abode - “in Christ” (Eph. 1:10), “in Me” (John 15:2, 4, 5, 6, 7). Cf. habit and habitation, so Christian life: as we abide we learn and enjoy secrets of the Lord. Press this: two classes of Christians - (1) at home in the world and “visit” Christ; (2) at home in Christ and “visit” the world. “In” the world but not “of” it.

II. *The Believer’s Power*

1. His Divine Strength - “Almighty” - not only mighty, but “mighty for all” for everything.
2. His Perfect Provision - “shadow” - protection, shadow of hand; refreshment, shadow of rock. Both indicate peace and serenity of soul.
3. His Continual Abode - “abide”
 - (a) The Word of God his protection - when assailed, his sword.
 - (b) Fellowship with God - raises impulses, tastes, desires to higher sphere. Cf. cultured and ignorant men.
 - (c) Love of God - his soul impregnated and preserved.
 - (d) Purpose of God - his own purpose enlarged and ennobled - different view of life.

Conclusion

Life, therefore, need be neither arbitrary nor uncertain, but according to fixed, positive law. It has the absolute security of the man who makes God his dwelling place.

1. A possibility for All (v. 1)

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2. A Fact in One (v. 2)
 - (a) “My” - appropriation of faith.
 - (b) Then action of faithfulness.
 - (c) Fulfil conditions and God will follow with consequences.
 - (d) “He who will make God his shelter by day shall have God’s protection at night” (Heb.)

*I would commune with Thee, my God,
E’en to Thy seat I come;
I leave my joys, I leave my sins,
And seek in Thee my home.*

*I stand upon the mount of God
With sunlight in my soul,
I hear the storms in vales beneath,
I hear the thunders roll.*

*But I am calm with Thee, my God,
Beneath these glorious skies,
And in the height on which I stand
Nor storms nor clouds can rise.*

*Oh, this is life! Oh, this is joy,
My God, to find Thee so,
Thy face to see, Thy voice to hear
And all Thy love to know!*

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*