

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: 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 inquire in His temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. (Ps. 27:4, 5)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In Psalm 27 David made a staggering statement. This psalm was most likely written toward the end of David's life.
- B. King David is considered one of the most successful kings in history. His many accomplishments included song writing, shepherding, warrior, king, husband, father, diplomat, prophet, being successful financially, and more.
- C. Even in spite of these outward accomplishments David boldly declared that there was only *one thing* that he desired. This one thing was the key to David's heart. It was this one thing out of everything that he had accomplished and experienced that *moved* him.

II. THE ONE THING DESIRE

- A. David had a single-minded approach to life. If there was one thing that he wanted from the Lord it was this. There was one thing that David was seeking after; of all the options and delights that David could have had he wanted *just one thing*.
- B. David *sought after* the one thing desire. Not only did he want it but he fervently pursued it regardless of the cost. It's not just enough to want something but not follow through in pursuing it. David followed through on his desire. He diligently sought the Lord.
- C. The one thing that David wanted to *behold the beauty of the Lord*. The beauty of the Lord is that which God displays about Himself. It's His physical appearance, but it's also the revelation of His emotions. The revelation of God's beauty is the highest pursuit that we can have.
- D. David was a student of the emotions of God. He pursued the revelation of what God was like (in His person, in His emotions) and also what David looked like to God.
 - 1. The scripture is filled with the revelation of God's beauty. For to know God is to behold His beauty. Many fixate simply on *what God can do for them* rather than *who God ultimately is, in and of Himself*.
 - 2. The scripture also declares how God sees us. We call this the revelation of His emotions. There are deep desires within the heart of God for His people. An often forgotten pursuit is the revelation of *how God sees His people*.

III. WHY BEAUTY?

- A. The subject of the beauty of the Lord may be new to some. Of all the things about God to pursue why does David choose to pursue God's beauty? Why not His holiness? Why not His love? Why not His mercy?

IV. OUR DESIRE FOR BEAUTY

- A. To understand David's pursuit of the beauty of God we must understand a very basic need within the human heart for beauty. Every person is born with a need to be *fascinated by beauty*. We all to experience beauty that deeply captivates our hearts.
- B. This desire is fundamental to human existence. This desire for beauty will *never go away*. We cannot get rid of it and we cannot repent of it.
1. Sadly, many in their desire for beauty attempt to satisfy it with *illegitimate or lesser things*. They pursue world pleasures of money, sexuality outside the covenant of marriage, media and entertainment, culture and social events, relationships, materialistic things...etc.
 2. When we stumble in sin we are to repent of that sin, but we cannot repent of our desire to be fascinated. Some that are stuck in sin are simply asking the Lord to take away their desire for it; they become frustrated when their desires don't change.
 3. In reality, they substituted the beauty of God for a lesser beauty. That lesser thing is entirely unfulfilling.
- C. God formed this desire for beauty into the fabric of who we are as humans. Ultimately, it's this desire for beauty that was meant to steer us to God.
- D. The object of beauty that we pursue becomes the thing that we worship. Beauty and worship are deeply connected together. We worship what we esteem as beautiful.

V. HOW IS BEAUTY DETERMINED?

- A. There's an old saying that *beauty is in the eye of the beholder*. What this saying means is that each person should decide for themselves what is beautiful and what is not. This is called *subjective beauty*.
- B. There is something called *objective beauty* – which means that the object is beautiful no matter what someone else thinks about it. No one gets to vote. Today, there are fewer and fewer things that are considered objectively beautiful.
- C. God is objectively beautiful. It doesn't matter if a person thinks so or not.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:15-18)

- D. Jesus is the Beautiful God. He is the most desirable and fascinating thing that we could pursue. Here, Paul says that in *all things* Christ is preeminent (far surpassing all others; superior). Christ is the most superior beauty and the highest pursuit.
- E. When we understand that Jesus is not only beautiful but *the Most Beautiful* then David's declaration makes more sense. If God is the highest beauty, and we have access to experience that beauty, then there should only be one sensible response.
1. Example: if you knew there were a billion dollars buried outside you would dig up everything until you found it
 2. Yet, how many believers resign themselves to lesser beauties. How often we find ourselves tied up in other things, too busy for this "*beholding God*" lifestyle. We search for fulfillment and don't find it. We make *many things* our pursuit but live empty and discouraged.