

## Life-Study of Psalms Summaries – Messages 16-20

### The Mixed Expressions of the Psalmist's Enjoyment of the House of God in God's House

Our understanding of the Bible depends upon the measure of our **growth in the spiritual life**. Even today in our human life, our knowledge depends upon the measure of our growth in the human life. In order to understand the Bible, we must exercise one principle. This principle is that **God planned in His economy to make Himself one with man**. The basic principle, the main principle, of Christ's birth is that God came to join Himself to man to be a man and to be one with man. We have been grafted into Christ as the tree, and this grafting has made up one with Him. What is needed now is for us to **abide in Him that He may abide in us**. Then He and we will be one, having one life, one nature, and one living.

In reading the Psalms, we should see the contrast between the human concept and the divine concept. According to our concept, we may feel that the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, tells us mainly that we have to fear God, to take refuge in Him, to trust in Him, to wait on Him, to hope in Him, to praise Him, to thank Him, and to worship Him. This concept, however, is not the divine concept in the New Testament. What the **New Testament** shows us is **God's economy**.

### The Psalmists' Intensified Enjoyment of God in His House and City Through the Suffering, Exalted, and Reigning Christ

Book two of Psalms begins with the psalmist's panting after God. Panting after God is different from worshipping God in a formal, religious way. God is our living water for us to drink. **We need to pant after this water and then drink it**. We need to have times with the Lord in which we pant after Him and thirst for Him.

Book Two unveils the psalmists' intensified enjoyment of God in His house, and even more in His city, through the suffering, exalted, and reigning Christ. **Such a Christ is the way for us sinners to enter into God**. Now we enjoy God as our God in Christ as the home and in the church as the city. Our enjoyment of God is through a stairway, and this stairway is Christ—the suffering One, the exalted One, and the reigning One.

To pant after God and to thirst for God are marvellous, wonderful, and good. In this we should remain, but we lack control. **Thoughts come in as darts to distract us**. These thoughts constitute our sentiment, which we utter in expressions. Mixed expressions such as these are the contents of many of the psalms.

Psalms 45 is the highest and the greatest of the one hundred fifty psalms. The subject of this psalm is love, and the tune, the melody, is called "lilies." Here both love and lilies refer to the saints. Every lover of the Lord Jesus is feminine and is also a lily. A lily denotes a pure, simple, single life of trusting in God. **We should not only have a life of purity and simplicity as signified by the lily, but we should always have an affectionate feeling toward the Lord**.

(Life-Study of Psalms – Messages 16-20).