Life-Study of Psalms Summaries - Messages 31-35

The Way of Restoration—Exalting Christ

Psalms 77-83 reveal the way of restoration, showing us that the way to be restored is to exalt Christ. The more Christ is exalted, the more restoration there will be.

God's way is hidden in the sea, and His paths in the great waters with His footsteps are not known to men, but His way is revealed in His sanctuary. Spiritually speaking, for us today God's sanctuary is our spirit and the church.

In Psa. 80:17 the psalmist goes on to say, "Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, / Upon the son of man whom You have strengthened for Yourself." This reveals that the first place, the highest place, the highest position, the preeminence, has been given to Christ. This is the exaltation of Christ. The way of restoration is the exaltation of Christ. **As regenerated people we need to come together in the meetings of the church to exalt Christ by praising, singing, and shouting.**

The Psalmist's Love for the House of God with Christ

Psalm 84 comes after a number of psalms on God's dealing and stripping. The term the valley of Baca (the valley of weeping) indicates that the psalmist had been dealt with by God and had been stripped by Him.

In verse 1 and 2, we see the longing of the psalmist to be in God's habitations. The psalmist goes on to liken himself to the sparrow and the swallow finding a home and a nest at the two altars. Whereas a home is a place of rest, a nest is a place of refuge. For us today, the brass altar is a refuge. We hide ourselves under the cross, escaping our troubles, and thus we are covered and have refuge. Then at the golden altar we contact our Christ in the heavens for rest.

Verse 5 reveals that the one is blessed whose heart is on the highways to Zion. To be on the highways to Zion means that we intend to come into the church. When we pass through the valley of Baca, God makes this valley a spring. Our tears become a spring and this spring becomes the early rain that covers the valley with blessings.

<u>Christ Versus Restoration of God's People, Personal Salvation, and Release from Sufferings</u>

The background in Psalms 85, 86, and 88 involves three things: the restoration of God's people, personal salvation, and release from sufferings. Psalms 87 and 89 present Christ with God's saints, God's house, God's city, and God's earth. The Christ unveiled in these psalms is versus the restoration of God's people, personal salvation, and the release from sufferings. Psalm 87 is on the desire of God for Zion with Christ. Psalm 89 unveils the intention of God for Christ, His Anointed, to possess the entire earth.

In Psalms Book 3 there are five outstanding psalms. Psalms 73 unveils God as our unique portion. Psalm 80 unveils Christ as the One in the place of preeminence. Psalm 84 unveils Christ as the house of God with the two altars for the "sparrows" and "swallows". Psalm 87 unveils Zion with Christ loved by God. Psalm 89 unveils Christ as God's Anointed to possess the entire earth, with His territory extending from the sea to all the rivers.

(Life-Study of Psalms – Messages 21-29).