

tion in which while his mind is sound, and his faith in exercise, he cannot discern "the loving-kindness" of his God. Still there are reasons, and strong ones too, why it is more especially both his duty and his privilege to think of that loving-kindness in the midst of the Temple.

One is, because *there he hears of it*. It is there especially that the love of God in Christ is unfolded to his view; there he is invited to taste and see how gracious the Lord is; there he learns that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer, that when they cry, the Lord heareth them, and delivereth them out of all their troubles; that the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and will save such as be of a humble spirit; in a word, that "though great are the troubles of the righteous, the Lord delivereth him out of all."

Another reason is, because it is there especially he *seeks* the loving-kindness of God. This is our great object in coming to God's Temple. We come to hold communion with our Maker, and to taste the blessings of that communion. It is not merely to perform certain acts, as a matter of *duty*, but to seek God, His favor, His grace, His consolations, His support, and constant guidance, through the perplexities of this dark world. We come to pray for an interest in His loving-kindness; to place ourselves beneath the protection of His providence, to share in the blessings of His covenant of grace; in a word, to be strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man, and to be filled with all the fulness of God. Now God's Temple affords us an appropriate place for doing this. We can do it individually in our closets, and socially in our families, but not *collectively*, as a congregation, save in the Temple of God.

And this suggests a further reason why we should think of God's goodness in the midst of His Temple, viz., because there especially we *realize* it. Why does the holy Psalmist exclaim with fervour, "O God thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee; to see thy power

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