



Weekly Devotional

Tabernacle Series #8

Coming Into His Courts

“And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle...” (Exodus 27:9).

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise...” (Psalm 100:4).

In 1739 John Wesley bought an old workshop on City Road in London and turned it into what became known as Foundery Chapel. Almost forty years later, in 1777, a new chapel was built bearing his name—Wesley’s Chapel. In spite of various additions and restorations, the chapel today is much like the one built in 1777. Wesley preached in the church until his death in 1791 and is buried behind the chapel.

Some of Wesley’s original furniture, books and other items, such as his tricorne hat and preaching gown, can be viewed in his restored house nearby. Other special items of interest related to his ministry are located in the museum beneath the old chapel. In the middle of the large courtyard in front of the chapel, between the iron-gate entrance and the doors of the church, stands a very imposing statue of the minister.

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness also had a large courtyard. Unlike the courtyard at Wesley’s Chapel, however, and unlike the courtyards in the front of many old churches, the courtyard of the Tabernacle was situated within its curtain-wall. It did not lead up to the entrance; it was on the other side of the entrance. This rectangular area was vitally associated with the presence of God and speaks of our approaching Him.

Coming into His courts speaks to us of our position! Entrance through the multicolored gate into the outer court gave the Israelite a measure of assurance and confidence—he was elevated from the status of an outsider to that of an insider. The sacrifice was offered on the altar for him and the priests were there to assist him. Having come to God through the Lord Jesus, we can stand in His courts and “draw near...in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:22).

Coming into His courts speaks to us of our privilege! Not one Israelite deserved to approach the Most High God. But being numbered among His chosen people, that wonderful privilege was enjoyed. As the Lord’s people we can shout with the Psalmist, “Blessed is the man whom Thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple” (Psalm 65:4).

Coming into His courts speaks to us of our path! The gate into the outer court of the Tabernacle introduced the people to a new world. It brought them from the world of the natural into the world of the spiritual. In similar fashion, through Christ we are made aware of the divine sphere. The path before us leads our hearts to true worship and adoration of Christ. Ah, may we “flourish in the courts of our God” (Psalm 92:13).