

APPLICATION: We shall not be left to ourselves in times of trouble.

Introduction

1. Happiness is not Blessedness
2. Explain the difference
3. **Illustration:** shadow v. substance

1. IT BEGINS AT THE HOUSE OF GOD

- 1) The Psalmist's view of God's house:
 - (i) "lovely" – "pleasant"
 - (ii) place of safety – innocence
- 2) **OBSERVE:** It is lovely because:
 - (i) God is given his place in life
 - (ii) Believers take their children there
 - (iii) God's word alters all our attitudes

APPLICATION: Are "God's ways" in our heart?

2. WE ARE NOT ON OUR OWN IN TRIALS

- 1) This life is a vale of tears:
 - (i) sin – death – sickness
 - (ii) Satan – temptation – guilt

ILLUSTRATION: God's name in vain so quickly
- 2) So here: "Baca's vale": **ILLUSTRATION:** even the great + the famous: Mrs. Thatcher; Mr. T. Blair.
God's people are not immune.
- 3) But they do have help:
 - (i) God is their strength
 - (ii) they dig up wells (Explain)

Proof: See Psalm 27 (end) and Psalm 34.

3. THEY ARE ALL ON THE WAY TO HEAVEN

- 1) They are progressing in holiness.
- 2) "Sion": here is the heavenly home.
- 3) Christ is the guarantee of our eternal salvation: "thine Anointed".
ILLUSTRATION: companies guarantee their goods: e.g. a car.
How much more are God's promises sure!!
- 4) So, we value God's house as the best on earth: "keep a door".
- 5) "Truly blessed"!
APPLICATION: This is where the blessed life is lived – so, let us value it and seek to go on till our feet stand at last on those streets that are paved with gold!

PSALM

84: 1 – 3

84: 4 – 9

84: 10 - 13