

Psalms 26,27

Psalms 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

Each of these Psalms find David expressing his love for God's house. This was no ornate and splendid edifice for the temple was to be built by Solomon rather than David. God's house for David was the location of His presence. There was a place of worship where David and Israel gathered and it was not impressive except that God was there.

Psalms 26 - David's concern here seems to be with being welcome in God's house. The Psalm begins with David declaring that he has walked in integrity and concludes with his resolve to continue to do so. He is willing to be judged on both the basis of his actions and his motives. And yet we should notice that this boldness is depending on God's compassionate goodwill, "For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes." David's conscience is offended by those who seem to have none. For those who are welcomed in worship there is clean hands, a thankful voice, a testifying tongue, and a fulfilled heart all in the place of God's glory. The

alternative is to be warned of judgment for sins of idolatry, hypocrisy and evil-doing.

Psalms 27 - Here, David wants more than to be welcome in God's house. He wants to dwell in His house so that he is constantly in God's presence. David wants to be with the God who he knows as his light, and salvation and as the strength of his life. Through extreme trials God had shown Himself strong. When an enemy is out to get you, this is very disturbing. It is always so. Yet, in these circumstances David's faith was strong. His confidence was in God and in the veracity of his relationship with God. David expresses in the midst of this a singular focus - to dwell in the house of the Lord or simply to be with or next to God. God's care and friendship is reliable. In times of further trouble He can be counted on for protection and sustenance. A life with God is ultimately an experience of triumph and joy.

Scroggie contrasts the 2nd half of the Psalm with the first as the difference between faith and fear. I am not sure that I would go so far but David's confidence in God's constant care does seem diminished in the 2nd half of the Psalm. The evidence for this is in David's pleading for God's help where in the first half of the Psalm he seemed to

have great assurance that he was secure in God's care no matter what kind of pressure he was feeling from others. So David begs God to hear his cry and have mercy upon him in verse 7. In verse 9 he pleads with God to not hide His face from him and to not turn away from him in anger. In verse 12 he asks God to not deliver him to the will of his adversaries "for false witnesses have risen against me." In the midst of these doubts, David finds hope in what he knows. He knows that when God said to him, "Seek my face." David did just that. He knew that God was more loyal and more faithful than even his parents, "When my father and my mother forsake me, The Lord will take care of me." And, he knew that it was God's constant goodwill that gave him hope when otherwise he would have been hopeless.

From this evidence, David ends on a note of encouragement. It is encouragement that is bigger than himself, and thus useful for anyone who will believe, "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!"