ENTERING HIS GATES

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. Psalms 100:4 (KJV)

Psalm One Hundred is sometimes called the Thanksgiving Hymn. Assumed to be a psalm of David, this psalm encourages us to recognize God as our creator, master, and the divine object of our worship. As we enter his gates it should always be with thankful hearts. We are the only part of his creation that he gave free will to. With that free-will we openly rebelled against him. Instead of throwing us away he gave his Son to redeem us and pardon us. We have much to be thankful for. Now, through Christ, God’s Son, we are saved and may enter his gates with thanksgiving. Also, we might thank him that we are able to enter his gates. So many of our brothers and sisters are not able to come and worship him in a corporate manner. It is only when we find that we cannot attend public worship that we find how much we miss it. As an individual, I am thankful to live in a land that allows public worship. I am thankful also for having the desire to go to church and join with others in singing and prayer to worship our God. So wake up church! Let’s worship our blessed Lord!

When was the last time you were singing when you drove up on the church property? Do you come through the church doors with a hymn or gospel song on your lips? You may not be very spiritual at all. I believe it is Satan’s goal to create chaos in our homes every Sunday morning. The kids have been fussing and fighting; you couldn’t find a matching pair of socks to wear and someone in the family is going to be late for their own funeral, so you are not very spiritual when you drive into the church parking lot. It is all you can do to have a smile on your face and say “fine” when that man at the door asks “How are you this morning?” Sometimes we arrive at church and our only thought is that we are just glad that we made it. We will fuss over the breakfast cereal and who gets to sit where in the car and by the time we arrive at church Dad is shouting “You better be happy or I’ll heat up your britches so bad that you won’t sit down for a week!” Well, if we are not experiencing some of these things, we have at some time in our family life.

We should purpose in our hearts to give the devil a black eye. Plan on Saturday for church on Sunday. Lay out your Sunday clothes on Saturday night. If possible, fix Sunday lunch on Saturday so that you can focus on the Lord come Sunday. Listen to sacred music only on Sunday morning. Maybe by the time you arrive at church you will enter into His courts with praise.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram