

Psalm 23:6

by Carl Armerding

The sermon explores the themes of God's goodness and mercy, emphasizing the importance of living in communion with Him both now and for eternity.

Duration: 47:49

Scripture: John 14:1, John 14:23

Topics: "Mercy"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of having a shining face as a testament to our Christian faith. He refers to 2 Corinthians 3, where it is mentioned that by beholding the glory of the Lord, we are transformed into the same image. The preacher also mentions the future dwelling with God and quotes John 14:23, where Jesus says that those who love Him will be loved by the Father and He will manifest Himself to them. He shares a personal anecdote about choosing the ministry over engineering, highlighting the eternal future and brightness of the Christian faith.

Transcript

History, I'll see the light of glory Ancient Bible prophecy will show As the Savior left the earth For all the kindness and love Words of appreciation Faithfully passed on to the world So anything that you have Appreciation for all of these Perhaps it might interest you to know I realized that I was breaking the rules of the doctors One of them said, I don't want you to speak more Now this morning Goodness and mercy shall follow me You'll notice that this psalm opens up on The Lord is It closes on an equally positive note Surely Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the day We thank God for the way in which This is one of the unique features of our Christian faith And indeed it was also the True of all testaments Surely, goodness Here we have a third position With me But here we have something which follows This looks to me like a third position Two-fold way Goodness and Mercy Good running, rather Underneath are the everlasting Think of these arms Another way, perhaps, of interpreting this Would be to say that These things speak to us of that Which on the one hand is bitter And the things that are good for us are bitter But on the other hand There is that which is sweet as well And so one quaint old commentator Has suggested That the goodness is the bitter And the loving kindness As the word mercy should have been rendered The loving kindness Of the Lord Is the sweet And God brings these things together In a wonderful combination in our lives You know, if it was all bitter We'd despair If it were all sweet We'd spoil But God keeps things in perfect balance Doesn't he?

He knows exactly how much we can take Because he knoweth our frame And remembers that we are dust But the wonderful thing is That he pursues us with this Surely, goodness And mercy shall follow me All the days of my life Not just simply a part of my life But all the time As the Lord Jesus himself Assured his own When he left them, he said, Lo, I am with you always Even to the end of the age This constant presence Of the Lord Is something which I'm afraid Some Christians never enjoy But you know, this is something We need to be aware of every day of our lives That he's here And he's promised to be with us Every day of our lives You don't have to say, well, it's just on Sundays Or some other day But it's all the days of my life Every one of them And we look back over them And they become more numerous all the time But we can say Thank God for every day Of our lives But then you'll notice That he also is very sure of something About the future He says, I will dwell in the house of the Lord Now what did he mean By the house of the Lord The first man to speak About the house of God Was none other than Jacob Jacob was on his way to Phaidon-Aram In obedience to his father Who said, I don't want you to take a wife Of the daughters of Tim And so he started back Where his father came from To find him a wife And on the way, of course He had to stop over overnight And the Bible tells us He took some of the stones there And arranged them for his pillow A pretty hard pillow, but he did And in the morning when he woke up He took one of these stones And poured oil on the top of it And called it Beth-El Which means the house of God He says, this is The house of God The first man to speak of this And you wonder about it Here's a homeless stranger, so to speak And yet he's occupied With the place where God lives And you know, this I believe Is something that God implants in us It's in our hearts That there is something beyond this Even those Who sometimes tell you There's nothing beyond this life Somehow or other They give the secret away That they do believe there's something after this And how wonderful it is, isn't it?

Last night I referred to that engineer Who I met on the plane going from Chicago One of the questions he put to me Which I didn't mention last night He said, you say you're an engineer? I said, yes Well, he said, how come you switched over to the ministry? Well, I said, I think I can put that very simply I said, there's no future in engineering He looked at me, he said No future? Why, he said, my friend, he said engineering is This is the day of engineering I said, yes I said, you have told me That you're working on missiles I said, what are you doing with these missiles?

They're instruments of destruction I said, as far as I can see There's no future in it You know He looked at me, he said There is no future in it When you come to think of these instruments of destruction But how wonderful is a Christian faith, isn't it?

There is a future in it And the future is even brighter than the present And surely the present is bright enough with his blessings But you notice as you go through the scriptures That the idea of God is pursued even further We come now to the tabernacle, for example Which is given to us in the book of Exodus You know, I have to smile At some of these liberals Who tell you that Moses Borrowed these ideas from the pagans And the scripture tells us Clearly That it was according to the pattern which was shown And so the tabernacle You see The tabernacle had a heavenly pattern It was God's dwelling place Among his people As they traveled across the desert And then when they got into the land We find that this takes more permanent form In the temple which Solomon built And that was God's house

Yes But I don't think that David was speaking of either one of these When he said I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever Because you see He was not of the tribe of Levi He couldn't even serve in that place He was of the tribe of Judah And therefore he wouldn't even have a place of service In the tabernacle or the temple Which of course was not built in his day So I take it that he's talking About something else here He's not talking about that temporary Building lovely as it was But he's talking About something which is

eternal And you know While some people think we're presumptuous In thinking that David Might have been speaking about the same thing That the Lord Jesus was talking about In the 14th chapter of John I take refuge in the text In Hebrews 11 Where it says of Abraham

That he looked for a city Whose architect And builder Was God Abraham's vision carried him Beyond time altogether To the city which is Described for us in the closing chapters Of our Bible Don't let us Discount What those Old Testament saints knew It's true They prophesied better than they knew But somehow They had the conviction within them That they were talking about things Beyond human kin And they were talking about The same thing that the Lord Jesus Christ was talking about In the 14th chapter Of John And how sweetly the Lord introduces That doesn't he In the previous chapter There in John's gospel He had made two very sad Revelations The sad revelation that a man Who had spent years in his company Was going to betray him And what I think is even more Sad is the fact That Peter who

professed to Love the Lord Jesus even more Than his fellow disciples You can see what effect This would have upon The other disciples I can almost see their faces As the Lord made This solemn announcement That one was going to betray him And another was going to deny him And I believe it is in Because of that that the Lord opens up That 14th chapter of John As he does Let not your heart be troubled Let not your heart be troubled And let me say in this connection That in spiritual matters The heart is much more important Than the head And this isn't discounting intelligence This isn't Discounting knowledge But it's simply putting things In their proper order And in spiritual matters The heart is much more Important than the head It's in the Old Testament That God says my son give me Thy

heart And keep thy heart with all diligence For out of it Are the issues of life And so there in those closing Days with his own The Lord Jesus could say Let not your heart You believe in God Believe also in me You can't trust Your fellow disciples You can't trust Judas Iscariot You can't even trust Peter But you can trust me And you know when the Lord Jesus Made that statement He was actually claiming deity Who else could say You believe in God Or as you believe in God so Believe also in me Except one who is equal with God One who is God Manifest in flesh So every one of these incidental Claims to Deity on the part of our Lord Jesus Christ When he said You believe in God Believe also in me And then he goes on To tell us about The future In my father's house You know that's so different

From the way some people Refer to the future To some of them It's simply the grave beyond How vague that is isn't it And then again We hear somebody stand up And sing a solo about The beautiful isle of sun Just about as vague too And Sometimes Even we who say We believe we're going to heaven When we leave this world Even that isn't quite Definite enough I remember Just before the Lord called Grace McAllister home I was in Vancouver To see Grace because I took my leave of Grace I said well Again I repeated I said Grace And again she shook her hand To meet you at Jesus feet To her heaven was more than a place And that's it exactly That's the way in the 14th of John Doesn't he He says In my father's house are many abiding places If it were not so I would have told you I don't prepare a place

for you And if I don't prepare a place For you I will come again And receive you unto myself That where I am Friends I don't want to read too much into this 23rd Psalm which is in them But on the other hand I'm going to credit the Psalmist With that vision Which God gave to those Old Testament saints When they looked beyond All the ages of time Into eternity itself Days As it's put in the Hebrew language I like to think that even The Psalmist looked forward To the very thing Of which the Lord Jesus was speaking Prepare a place Prepare a place for you Receive you unto myself Oh what sweet words they are Not only coming again but coming to receive us Unto himself And it is this that distinguishes The premillennial hope From

all the other comings of our Lord That are mentioned in the

scriptures This reception unto himself This is a qualification Which is unique And it's Reserved particularly For the Lord's coming For the church The thing to which I've been looking forward Ever since I became a Christian By confession Seventy years ago He says don't you ever get weary Of waiting No Because I always console myself With this fact That while God Waits shall I say for others To receive his beloved son I can afford to wait too And even if I have to close These eyes without seeing The hope realized In my lifetime Although I believe I've got Pretty good reason to believe That they'll never put me In that cemetery Up there in Illinois But even if they do I'm going to Continue believing in this That It might be Today It might be today Now beloved you know In this sense I'm a

Thessalonian Sometimes I'm asked A question by some of my brethren But where do you stand With regard to the dispensations Are you pre-mill Are you mid-tribulation Or are you post-trib Or are you post-mill What are you I say I'm a Thessalonian I'm waiting for God's son From heaven You know I don't have to say it any other way That's good enough isn't it And I wouldn't be surprised That this is what the psalmist is really talking about here But I would like to pursue this Thought just a little further To give it more of the What it means to us in the present So would you please turn over In your Bibles first of all To Psalm 90 The 90th Psalm Which is probably One of the oldest of all the Psalms Because you notice that The title of it is that it's a prayer Of Moses The man of God So that

dates that Psalm Hundreds of years before David And you notice what he said In the opening verse of that Psalm Lord Thou hast been Our dwelling place In all Generations You see Even those Old Testament Saints had the idea Of having a real home In fact one of the choice Commentators on the book of Psalms I'm referring to He renders this Thou hast been a home to us In all generations I think the idea Is that He constantly felt at home In the presence of God You know the English language In a way is Peculiar in this respect Most languages That I'm acquainted with They don't say I'm going home They say I'm going to my house The German says Ich gehe nach Hause He's going to his house The Spaniard says Me voy a mi casa He's going to his house The Frenchman he goes to his maison He's going to

his house But an Englishman says I'm going home And you know As the Scot would say This is something that warms the cockles of your heart It does It's a word that has a special meaning Now it's true we do have a word In German for home For example heim is a word But it's usually associated With an old folks home But here is something Which really Describes I believe What it's going to be To be at home with the Lord And then you look over to the Psalm 91 The opening verse of that psalm Is he that dwelleth in the Secret place You know you like to think That the secret place is something that Just you And he Know about And beloved this I think Can be applied not only to the Future but even more To the present We talk about dwelling in the house Of the Lord forever Let us not Omit the idea

That there can be such a thing as living At home with God Now In the secret place A place of known only to you And to him That trusting place That every Christian ought to have With his Lord Every day And friends I want to make a very practical suggestion Along this line especially to my Younger friends who are present Who have been very gracious In expressing their appreciation also For the ministry of these days I would urge upon you To make sure That you have this experience Every day of your life Don't leave it out Oh there have been Times when for example Traveling as we sometimes Have to For example we leave the port of New York About 6.30 In the evening And 2.30 New York time That's about 6.30 or later In Switzerland you're there And It's rather difficult isn't it Under such

circumstances To get away to have a little time With the Lord But you know there is such a thing As making believe that you're asleep And I've done this The stewardess came to me And said will you have breakfast sir Imagine me eating Dinner at 8.30 at night And having breakfast at 2.30 the next morning I think she thought I was asleep Seasoned with the Lord himself You know this is great It's really great You see right in the Presence of the maker of the universe Here he is The king of kings and lord of lords And here I am having a Private audience with him This is terrific To use the words of our young people It's really terrific And I wouldn't wonder But when the psalmist wrote this psalm He that dwelleth in the Secret place That he shall abide In the secret place of the most High shall

abide under the shadow Notice beloved how he Multiplies the idea here Not only of the secret place But a place of real comfort The shadow of the almighty And then in the next verse I will say of the Lord he is my refuge And my fortress And In him My God in him will I trust You notice how he Multiplies all these words Shall I say give us the details Concerning what it means To dwell And this I believe is the Lord Jesus gives us some idea Of this in the 14th chapter of John While the First verses which we've already Considered this morning Look on toward the future You notice a little later down In that chapter The 14th chapter of John Perhaps we ought to turn it up For the sake of any who May not have read it recently Just to see how The thing looks in print In the 23rd verse of that

chapter John 14 and verse 23 Jesus answered And said unto him That the man loved me And you know friends That should be the easiest thing In the world to do That should be the easiest thing In the world to do I remember my dear wife saying to me one time Honey why do you love me I said because it's so easy So easy Yes It's so easy to love him If a man loved me He would keep my words And my father would love him And we will come I'm not coming to live with me Take it literally Don't be afraid of it There it is in the book We will come unto him And make our abode With him Oh beloved Don't let's miss the joy And the privilege Of what it means to have This is all an anticipation Of what's ahead In heaven And the one Who makes this good to us now Of course is the blessed Holy Spirit It is he

who makes these Things good to us Because The church for example as a whole Is an habitation of God Through the Spirit And our bodies are said To be the temples Of the Holy Ghost When you talk about God dwelling With you let's not forget That it has various facets Various aspects It's not only a question of going into Some place by and by But it's something that I can enjoy Now in anticipation Know what it will do To you in your daily living How it will solve Problems which otherwise Have no solution For which people are taking Tranquilizers and what have you What could be more Tranquilizing Than spending time in the presence Of the God of peace You come into his holy presence And all is peace And the verse on my calendar This morning from the old country I have a calendar Cheering words

And here was my favorite Old Testament verse Thou will keep him In perfect peace Whose mind is stayed on thee Because He trusteth him And you know in the Hebrew language We have to make the Superlative perfect peace We have to make that by simply Repeating the term Literally in the Hebrew it is Thou will keep him in peace Peace Shalom shalom Yes It's what Peter calls peace being multiplied Oh beloved you don't get that at Walgreens You don't have to pay a nickel To get it But you have to take time to get it I remember something Paul Little said at one of our conferences Out in California He said some people Tell me they just Can't find time To do these things And Paul said You don't find it you take it That's a great distinction If you're going to look For time of course you'll never find

it But you just have to take it And this is what I Suggested a little while ago Let's see to it That at the beginning of the day This will be an anticipation of heaven It will do something to you It will even Do

something for your complexion It will do something that All the cosmetics in the world will do And you'll be Like Moses when he spent those Days with God up on the mountain Remember it says he came down And he wished not that his face shone And the shining face After all beloved is one of the best Advertisements which we have for our Christian faith As the Apostle puts it in 2 Corinthians Chapter 3 We all with open or unveiled face Beholding as in a glass or a mirror the glory Will change into the same image From glory to glory The least degree is glory You see And this is

possible Even now And what will it be To dwell above Oh I have not Seen or heard God reveal them to us by his spirit Let's take a hold Of them beloved And grant that you and I Whether we are able to speak a word To some people that we'd like to Talk about the Lord Jesus There's one thing That they can't deny And that is That a soul that is living with Christ Will have a face Like the face of Stephen When they could not They could not Explain nor could they endure In anticipation of that day Let's turn to Hymn number one hundred One hundred and eighty nine Lord send us

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