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GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

SERIES: Psalm 23

TITLE: I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

SONGS: In the presence of Jehovah

I'm looking for Jesus

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. In John 11:25, Jesus said..

“I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.”

King David didn't have THAT New Testament Scripture to assure him that there was life after death, yet because of his intimate relationship with the Lord, God gave David hope that He would remain with him as his faithful Shepherd-King for as long as he lived. Therefore, David confidently concluded Psalm 23 with a statement of his faith in the Great Shepherd he had come to know, love and depend on. Today, on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek wraps up our study of the 23rd Psalm with David's closing phrase...

“I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Just as David was sure that God's goodness and mercy would FOLLOW him all his days, he was also sure that the Lord would BE with him always. His use of the words 'dwell', 'house' and 'forever' implies this. The Hebrew word for 'forever' suggests 'throughout the years', which David most likely meant his entire lifetime. 'To dwell' means to abide, remain or make one's home. 'House' in this text connotes a permanent place, like the tabernacle or temple.

God made his presence known in those places in David's day. The phrase 'dwell in the house of the Lord' also symbolized being in God's presence. David reflected this in Psalm 27:4...

One thing I ask of the Lord; this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

It was important to David to feel at home. He was constantly on the run; camping in caves - sleeping under the stars - hiding from his enemies. David found 'home' in experiencing God's presence continually with him.

I thought of the many benefits we receive from our home. Dale and I travel often in our concert ministry. We don't always get a comfortable bed, good food, or quiet tenants so we can sleep. Even the security of the motel is sometimes questionable. It's great to come home, kick off our shoes, raid a frig

full of things we like, and nestle into our own bed – where we feel safe and secure. But it's far greater to know that even away from our physical home, we, like David, can find 'home' in the presence of our Lord.

Our heavenly Father gives us GOOD things to enjoy in His presence – or in His home, so to speak.

Psalm 31:19 says...

How great is Your GOODNESS, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You bestow in the sight of men, on those who take refuge in You.

Let's think of some of the things we experience in God's presence which remind us of being in a good home.

First, there's protection, shelter and safety.

Psalm 31:20a says...

In the shelter OF YOUR PRESENCE you hide them from the intrigues of men...

And Psalm 27:5 reads...

...in the day of trouble, He will keep me safe in His DWELLING; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

We're part of God's family through belief in Christ.

Ephesians 2:19b-22 says...

You are members of God's household built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone. In Him, the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you, too, are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

In God's home we're accepted.

1 Peter 2:3-5 says...

As you come to Him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him, you, also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We also have a sense of belonging.

1 Corinthians 6:19 says we have been bought with a price. We belong to God.

We find solace in the presence of the Lord. What a comfort it is to be able to cast our burdens on Him and know He cares and will help us. In His presence we find rest and peace. It's there we come to realize there's truly 'no place like home'.

***** **WRITERS: The Martins**
***** IN THE PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH *** LENGTH: 6:05**

Verse 1

***In and out of situations
That tug-a-war at me
All day long I struggle
For answers that I need
Then I come into His presence
All my questions become clear
And for a sacred moment
No doubt can interfere***

Chorus

***In the presence of Jehovah
God Almighty Prince of Peace
Troubles vanish - hearts are mended
In the presence of the King***

Verse 2

***Through His love the Lord provided
A place for us to rest
A place to find the answers
In hours of distress
There is never any reason
To give up in despair
Just slip away and breathe His name
He will surely meet you there***

Repeat chorus 2x

Life is indeed temporary here. Our earthly tent is destructible. How blessed we are to have the New Testament Scriptures that assure us that one day we'll have an incorruptible body and a permanent dwelling in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1 says...

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

In John 14:1-2 Jesus said...

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms (or mansions in KJV): if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Notice, there are many rooms, but only one house – the Father’s house. This implies intimate fellowship, in the very presence of God and everyone there.

When we get there, Revelation 7:17a says of us...

...the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water.

We won't have to drink or eat in the wilderness anymore. We'll feast at our Father's table in our palace. Philippians 3:20 says...

...our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there.

I'd like to conclude with a song I sang with my mom and sister when I was growing up. It talks about the hope we have as Believers in Christ.

***** I'M LOOKING FOR JESUS *** LENGTH: 1:30**

VERSE 1:

***I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE MY MANSION UP ON HIGH,
IF I LIVE FOR HIM EACH DAY, I KNOW THAT BY AND BY,
WHEN THE LORD SHALL COME
TO TAKE HIS CHILDREN TO THE SKY,
I'LL LIVE AND NEVER DIE.***

CHORUS:

***I'M LOOKING FOR JESUS TO COME SOMEDAY
I'LL EVER KEEP SINGING A -LONG MYWAY
NOW WHEN THE HEAVEN'S UN-FOLD,
I'LL WALK THE STREETS OF PURE
I'M LOOKING FOR JE—SUS TO COME SOMEDAY***

VERSE 2:

***GOD SAID JUST TO TRUST IN HIM AND HE WOULD SEE YOU THRU,
WHEN HE COMES WE'LL TRADE THIS BODY FOR ONE THAT IS NEW;
I'LL NOT TURN AROUND BECAUSE FOR HIM I'LL BE SO TRUE,
MY LOVE WILL NEVER DIE.***

REPEAT CHORUS:

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Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!