

*10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

*11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

*12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.*

The word “thousand” is employed in the scripture in the same way we use it today, as an indefinite superlative or hyperbole. It is intended to convey the idea of a great quantity. The plain meaning of our text is that *one day* as a Christian is incomparably better than a long life without knowing God. And this is an enormous understatement. Our Lord tells us it would be better not to have been born at all than to be a transgressor.

This is an incredible statement to a world that has come to value a long life . . . any kind of long life, to be a thing sought at any cost. And why not, if this life is all there is? Hang on to it as long as you can. This is why doctors and health care have come to dominate society, literally displacing the church as the center of religious devotion. It is the cause of all the wailing over “innocent children” being killed in a disaster, or starving in famine where many more times adults have died. The idea is that these “innocents” did not get to live very long, and are so much the more to be pitied. But the scripture tells us that it is better to live one day as a Christian than to have a hundred years of the best “fun and frolic” as a sinner.

It is better to be a “doorkeeper,” an unknown menial, one who is barely inside, than to be a well-known, admired, secure “insider” of this present evil generation. For the Lord is a sun, our light, our guide and counsellor. He is also our source of warmth, food and strength. For the Lord is our shield. It is He, not the government or the approbation of society that is our security.

But shall we “enjoy” life? Shall we taste the esthetic beauties of God’s earth in the days of our flesh? Yes, Yes!! Abundant life, for the Lord will give grace and glory. Joy unspeakable and full of glory. In fact, there is *no* good thing that He will withhold from those who walk uprightly. The Christian will miss out on absolutely nothing that is good for him. Not only that, but those ill-advised ambitions and desires that he would have for himself, those destructive lusts he would satisfy if left to himself, God withholds, loving him too much to permit him to have that evil thing.

No wonder that the Christian sees Zion, the church, the gathering of the saints, the habitation of God, as indescribably beautiful, and longs to be in the presence of God and His beloved at all times.

*O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!*

-C.M.