THE PROMISE

The enemy is in a victory formation just waiting for the clock to expire on David so that they may devour his flesh and David is not even breaking a sweat. David is not worried. David is confident!

"Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used or using anything that ought to be worshiped." - St. Augustine

The only way to remain confident in the midst of all kinds of turmoil and change is to know that the Lord is our light and salvation.

THE PLACE

v.4 One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: that I will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life and gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

The Lord's presence is a place of change. If David has any hope, he must be in the presence of God. In his presence there is fullness of joy.

Who are you staring at? What beauty are you gazing upon instead of the beauty of the Lord?

There is a real danger in this upcoming year that you know that your gaze is off and that you know you need to make spiritual adjustments but you're going to leave here today and you are not going to change a thing.

The prize is when the war is going on all around him, he can look up in the middle of the battle, feel the presence of the Lord and not be afraid.

David's life looks like our life! He is going through hard times and his is experiencing difficulties and broken relationships. In the middle of it all, there is <u>only one thing he seeks</u>...one thing he truly needs...and that is the LORD.

THE PETITION

Whether it is in the battle with sin or in another of life's battles, there is no better place to be than in the presence of God.

Paul David Tripp in his book New Morning Mercies says it like this...

If you prayed every moment of your life, you could not pray enough prayers to earn acceptance with God. If you gave every penny of every dollar that you ever earned in every job you ever had, you could not give enough to deserve acceptance with God. If every word you ever spoke was uttered with the purest of conscientious motivations, you would never be able to speak your way into reconciliation with God. If you gave yourself to an unbroken, moment-by-moment life of ministry, you could never minister enough to achieve God's favor. Sin is too big. God's bar is too high.

14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

This is really just another way of asking us if we trust Him. Do we trust that God changing us is best for us?

We can wait with confidence. We can wait because Jesus, the Son of God, as part of God's unbreakable promise says that He will come back and gather His church together and that we will reign forever with Him when the war of this life is over.

Let's wait for the Lord. Let's be strong and let our hearts take courage!