

# THE SECRET PLACE

*Psalm 91:1–16*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

There are six key words in Psalm 91:1. Two describe God: *Most High*, meaning elevation above all others; *Almighty*, meaning to supply abundantly or to His majestic strength. Two define relationship: *dwelleth*, meaning to remain, inhabit, to “make house,” sit down; *abide*, meaning to continue, dwell, stay overnight. Two declare privilege: *secret place*, meaning a cover, or private place; *shadow*, shade or defense, as a hiding place.

It is in this place that the child of God finds refuge from the pressures of life, but it is much more than this. For in the secret place the blessedness of His love and grace are imparted into the heart and soul so the believer becomes one with his God.

## **MESSAGE:**

### **1. The secret place is a hiding place** (verses 2–7).

- a. Provides a peaceful retreat from public/private spiritual battles.
- b. Jesus left the multitudes to be alone.
  - (1) In the morning for prayer (Mark 1:35).
  - (2) In the evening for prayer (Mark 6:46,47).
  - (3) All night in prayer (Luke 6:12).
  - (4) In solitary communion (Luke 5:15,16).
- c. Jesus left the multitude when they sought to make Him king (John 6:15).
- d. He is also our hiding place in our battles.
  - (1) God instructed David to wait until he heard “the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees” (2 Samuel 5:24, NIV).
  - (2) When the King of Syria surrounded the city, Elisha said, “Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them” (2 Kings 6:16).
- e. Benefits of the hiding place (verses 5–13).
  - (1) Security (verses 5,6).
  - (2) Safety (verses 7,10).
  - (3) Stability (verses 11,12).
  - (4) Strength (verse 13).

f. In the secret place you will come to know that God's power is greater than all the combined powers of man and Satan.

## **2. The secret place provides intimacy with God (verses 14,15)**

a. God's original plan was for humanity to enjoy the benefits and blessings of fellowship with Him.

b. When God was going to destroy Sodom, He told His friend Abraham (Genesis 18:17).

c. Moses had an ongoing relationship with God during the deliverance from Egypt—"And the Lord said...." (Exodus 6-14).

d. In the secret place, God...

(1) Reveals himself and His nature.

- Moses saw His glory (Exodus 34:29-35).

- Isaiah saw His holiness (Isaiah 6:1-7).

(2) Illuminates the truth of His Word.

- The revelations of God "are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2).

(3) Shows the righteousness of His ways.

- Job met God and repented over questioning God's sovereign ways.

e. In this secret place, there is produced in us...

(1) a right spirit.

(2) a mature understanding and wisdom.

(3) an ability to reflect God's love to even the unlovely.

(4) vulnerability.

(5) God's wise counsel.

(6) a "oneness" with the Lord.

f. This is a lifetime process; there are no shortcuts.

g. The more you know Him, the more you will desire to be like Him.

## **3. The secret place confirms the promise of eternal blessing (verse 16).**

a. Colossians 3:1-14 points to the importance of the secret place. "Your life is hid in Christ with God" (verse 3).

(1) "Seek those things which are above.... Set your affection on things above" (verses 1,2).

(2) As believers, we are dead to sin (Romans 6:11,12,14).

- (3) As believers, we are to “put off” (Colossians 3:8,9).
  - (4) As believers, we are to “put on” (Colossians 3:9,10,12,14).
  - (5) We will “appear with Him [Christ] in glory” (Colossians 3:4).
- b. The secret place helps us realize...
- (1) heaven and hell are real places. Only by God’s mercy and grace can we find forgiveness for sin and have the hope of heaven.
  - (2) life on earth, at its best, is incomplete and inferior to eternal life.
  - (3) all accomplishments are worthless unless they bring glory to God.
  - (4) time is brief, and our untiring energies should be fulfilling His plan.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The first and most important desire God has for you is to meet Him in the secret place.

—*H. Maurice Lednicky, Springfield, Missouri*