

Song of Solomon 1: 4b; "Brought into the King's Chambers", Sermon # 5 in the series - "I am my Beloved's", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 24th, 2009, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

We have been thinking together of this wonderful spiritual relationship between Christ and the Church, and between Christ and every individual believer. This book is written in such a way that the applications of spiritual truth can apply to both very well. Whether it is the love of the whole Church in every generation for Christ; whether it is the love of this local church in this generation for Christ; whether it is the love of the individual believer for Christ; the truth of these verses applies on all of these levels. Last Sunday afternoon we looked at the Christian life under the figure of being drawn to Christ. Every believer who wishes to follow their Lord Jesus prays to be drawn into deeper, more meaningful fellowship with Him. And every believer who wishes to grow in their love to the Lord Jesus and to be faithful and obedient to Him, promises that they will run after Him. That is; they will be eager to learn everything that they can do to please Him, as their Lord, and that they will put that knowledge into practice in their lives. Their heart, by faith, moves quickly to obey His every word. Every Christian who loves the Lord wants to "run the race with endurance", fixing their eyes on their heavenly bridegroom, who they know is the author and perfecter of their faith. They want their relationship with their Lord to grow and flourish, and so they have come to realize that it is when they are eager and quick to become doers of the word, and not merely hearers of it; that that is when they are really running in step with the One who loved them so much that He gave Himself for them in His life and His death, when He was here upon the earth. This great heavenly Bridegroom is spoken of here as "the King", and He is not just any king; but He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is not dead, but He was raised from the dead and is alive forevermore. He is living in my heart, if I have trusted in Him for salvation. Now this afternoon we want to understand the great privilege which every believer has who is spiritually united to Christ has, when they pray and ask to be led into a deeper communion and interaction with their spiritual King and husband Jesus Christ. First, we want to ask the question, "What does it mean for the King to bring the believer into His chambers? And then second, we want to ask, "What are the holy resolutions which the Church gives to Christ as a result of having been brought into the King's chambers?"

First of all - What does it mean for the King to bring me into His chambers?

The king usually lives in a palace, and the palace is made up of many rooms. The chambers are the rooms in the palace in which the one who is married to the King has access and communion with Him. It is the King who must bring the believer into these. It is His sovereign right to determine who shall come into these chambers and who will not. Those believing persons who are allowed to

come into these rooms know that they could never do so unless the King was determined to do so. He Himself leads the soul of the believer into those chambers. These are His chambers and He is bringing the one whom He loves into them. It is out of great love to you, O believer that Christ chooses to do this. It is a privilege which you are not worthy of. It is not simply that our Lord Jesus is a King who shows compassion to the poor sinners of this world; it is that He sets His love upon them and determines to reveal Himself personally and intimately in a spiritual way to those who appreciate all that He has done in making His greatest sacrifices in order to have them come into His chambers. Turn with me to Hebrews 10: 19 and 20 with me. Here we find out how the Lord Jesus is able to show such great condescension to those whom He loves. "Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." There was a great sacrifice that our King made for us as His people. He opened up the chambers to where we dwell now spiritually, and which we will occupy spiritually after we die, because of the great sacrifice on the cross that He made. He went to battle against the Devil and bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. He purchased for us the right and privilege of entering the palace of His salvation with its many rooms. You see this well if you will turn with me to Psalm 45. This picture of what the King is bringing us into; into His chambers within His palace are set forth in verse 13 and following. "The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; her clothing is woven with gold." "She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You." "With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; they shall enter the King's palace." In the temple of Old Testament times, there was a room, a most sacred chamber called the holy of holies. And once a year the one who was officiating as high priest would come and offer sacrifices for himself and for all the people. This was a picture of what our King, and our High Priest Jesus would do, bringing His own flesh as the offering for our sins. His flesh was torn on the cross; the veil was rent in the temple and access to the most holy place was opened up to sinners by this means. It is on this basis, and on this basis alone that He who is perfectly holy, could come to have fellowship and communion with sinners like ourselves. This is why you and I can have boldness of access to enter into this chamber of intimate communion with our God and our King. He has died to show us His love and good will towards even the vilest and most unworthy of sinners.

Turn to Ephesians Chapter 2, verse 4. Here we see the love of God and Christ in bringing us into His chambers. "But God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up

together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." You see here, that God through Christ has brought us right into the chambers of heaven, the place where God Himself dwells in all of His holiness, and He has seated us there with Christ in the heavenly places so that He might show us mercy forever. Heaven is the place where He brings us when we die and there in that holy place our spirits, which will then be made perfect, will await the Day of the Resurrection of all the dead, when Christ returns and the spiritual marriage of Christ and His Church is consummated. He says in John 14: 1, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you." "I go to prepare a place for you." "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." This will be the eternal bringing in of His Bride, the Church, to His chambers.

But even now, in our imperfect state, when we still have the remainders of corruption working in our hearts, He will even now, at times, bring us into this close experiential fellowship and communion with Himself. He brings us into the chambers of intimacy of spiritual union and communion, by His drawing near to us by His Holy Spirit. Turn over to John 14: 19. Jesus tells his disciples before He goes to the cross, "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me." "Because I live, you will live also." "At that day you will know that I am in My Father and you in Me, and I in you." "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." "And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." "Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?'" "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and make our home with him.'" "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." This is what takes place when the King brings us into His chambers. There is found in that "secret place of His presence, in the dwelling place of the Most High, in the palace of the King, chambers of intimacy and fellowship where the King and His Bride have undisturbed communion. It is a place where sin cannot molest, and where peace reigns in the hearts of His people. Listen to the verses which follow those I just read to you from John 14. "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you." "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." When the King invites us into His chambers of intimate communion with Himself we are neither troubled or afraid. We are in the secret place of His presence. Psalm 91: 1 - "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

"Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence." "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge..." This is what it means to be "brought into His chambers."

I like what Thomas Robinson in his commentary says about this: "There is a special nearness to Christ and sense of His love at times realized by the believer." "Such realization are not confined to time or place; but more usually enjoyed in secret prayer and public ordinances, more especially in the Lord's Supper." "Such experiences are the believer's high festival days, and foretastes of heaven." "Ordinarily they are but for a short time together." "At present, the believer's place in general is only the ante-chamber." "Permanent abiding in the King's chambers is reserved for a higher and better state." "Meantime, the happy privilege of believers is to be at times admitted into the King's chambers." "No place on earth is so honorable and so blessed." "No place is so humble and unattractive the eye of sense, but grace can convert it into the King's chambers." "Jacob's experience on the stony plain at Bethel was not confined to the local habitation: 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not: This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven.'" "Such Divine manifestations enjoyed in the humblest dwelling, and even in the chamber of sickness." "The field, the wood, the highway, the open sea; all are capable of being made the King's chambers." "John's blessed experience in the lonely rocky isle of Patmos." "Samuel Rutherford in exile dated his letters from 'the King's palace at Aberdeen.'" (When he was in prison) John Bunyan wrote his Pilgrim's Progress in Bedford jail." "If the King's chambers on earth were so blessed, what must the chambers in heaven be like!" Let me ask you this afternoon if the King has brought you into His chambers of intimate fellowship and communion with Him? This truly is the delight of the Christian life here upon earth and most certainly will be in heaven.

Now 2ndly - We want to ask, "What are the holy resolutions which the Church gives to Christ as a result of having been brought into the King's chambers?"

They are 2. "We will be glad and rejoice in you." And, "We will remember your love more than wine." Now, certainly these statements are more than simply the Church promising what she would do sometime in the future if Christ would do this good thing for her and bring her into His chambers. They are more decided than that. They are the loving responses of a Bride who has, even now, been given privileges that she could never have dreamed would come to her. It is the kind of exultant joy that is set forth in Peter's first epistle when he says in the 1st Chapter, the 3 verse: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be; you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your

faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love." "Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls." This is kind of gladness and rejoicing that flows out of realizing that Christ has given us all things in Himself. The believer in Christ has such joy and gladness in the relationship with his Lord, that he identifies greatly with the words of David which are found in Psalm 27: 4 - "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, the behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple" "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock." "And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord." Do you have this kind of joy when you come to worship the Lord Jesus; our King? Do you offer sacrifices of joy? Do say in your spirit, "I will be glad and rejoice I you."

The second resolution of the Shulamite, who represents Christ's Church, is this - "We will remember your love more than wine." In verse 2 it said before, "For your love is better than wine." Here the focus is not on the comparison of Christ's love with wine, but on the remembrance of it. I may preach this text more thoroughly at a later date, but I wish to show you in closing this sermon how significant it is to our Lord Jesus that you remember His love. You should remember His love more than the greatest earthly substance that gives you pleasure. Wine is the picture word for this. Wine brings gladness to the heart of man. Wine makes the heart merry. But the grace of Christ which came to you because He loved you enough to die for you, ought to make you continually cheerful and satisfy you as a continual feast. It is the love of Jesus Christ that surpasses knowledge. It is the love of Christ which we cannot be separated from. It is the love of Christ that continually gives us encouragement and hope. When you think of the Lord's Supper, think of this verse and you will do well. When we come to the Lord's table that is the thing that we need to remember; the love that brought us into His chambers; into the chamber of intimate communion and fellowship with Him; that love that will be with us and toward us forever.