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Devotional

Respect for God's Temple



Day 97/101
Through the Psalms
By Derek Prince

> For you created my inmost being;
> you knit me together in my mother's womb.
> I praise you because I am fearfully
> and wonderfully made . . .
> My frame was not hidden from you
> when I was made in the secret place.
> When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
> your eyes saw my unformed body.
> (Psalm 139:13–16)

Some years ago God spoke to me through this passage about the marvel of the physical body – my own body, in particular. The body is a divine masterpiece, planned ages in advance, made of materials formed in the secret depths of the earth and knit together in the womb by the Creator's invisible hand. I became concerned that I treat this masterpiece of my body with the care and honor due to it; that I maintain it in the best possible condition to fulfill its God-appointed function.

Again and again throughout history, men have sought to construct a building to accommodate God. They have lavished time, labor and wealth upon it. At best, however, such a building can serve as a place to offer worship, never as God's dwelling. "The Most High does not live in houses made by men" (Acts 7:48).

God has a different plan. At the beginning of human history He fashioned a temple for Himself with His own hands: the body of man. Then He worked out the plan of redemption by which that body, sanctified by faith in Christ's sacrifice, could be offered back to Him to be a temple of His Holy Spirit.

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

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