

“Our dwelling place throughout all generations” Psalm 90 (10/19/25)

When I began my ministry in the United States, one of the most common things I heard from people was, “People these days don’t go to church anymore,” or “It used to be that everyone went to church on Sunday, but not anymore.”

It’s not just a feeling that fewer people attend church; statistics show that church attendance has declined in the present day. What was once a shared culture of going to church together is no longer so. As generations have passed, cultures have changed.

This difference is what we call a cultural gap. In the past, cultural differences were mostly determined by geography. For example, Asian nations were influenced by Confucianism or Buddhism, while Europe and America were shaped by Christianity. There used to be differences between nations, but now culture is no longer limited by geography — it is divided between generations.

Today, you can eat Korean food in America and have McDonald’s or Burger King in Korea. For the young generation, Christianity is not the only religion in the United States; many young people now follow other philosophies or religions. Culture today is not divided by geography, but by generation.

But even with all the differences between cultures and generations, there is one desire of humans that has never changed since ancient times — the desire for peace and well-being. Throughout human history, faith and religion have been with humans. People desired to have peace and well-being through their religions.

Each generation has faced many crises — wars, the Cold War, economic depressions, and political conflicts. And in every crisis, humans have turned to their gods for peace and protection. Compared to old generations, the young generations may seem more peaceful. Yes, there are still threats of war, but not on the scale of

the World Wars. The economy remains unstable, but it is not as serious as the Great Depression.

Even if this generation's situation seems easier, as a pastor, I believe the greatest crisis of today's generation is that people no longer feel the need to seek peace and well-being through faith or religion.

According to recent U.S. statistics (2025), about 63% of Americans say they have a religion, and among them, about 68% identify as Christian. However, only about 28% attend worship regularly — weekly or at least twice a month.

This shows that people in the present day no longer recognize the importance of faith or the necessity of seeking God in their lives. I believe this is a crisis serious than other generations.

But even when history changes and people lose faith, there is one unchanging truth: God is our eternal dwelling place. Whether people seek God or not, God has been — and always will be — our dwelling place.

Book IV of the Psalms consists mostly of songs of praise, but there are two psalms that cry out for help. This makes Book IV a kind of transition — a bridge between lament and praise — moving from the journey of “the blessed person” in the opening Psalms toward the final praise that closes the book.

One of those prayers for help is Psalm 90, which is positioned as the introduction to Book IV. In Psalm 90, we can see Psalm 90's subtitle: “A prayer of Moses, the man of God.” It is still not clear whether Moses truly wrote it or whether later editors dedicated it to him to honor Moses.

When the Israelites returned from exile, they faced a difficult question — how should they interpret their painful history of losing their nation and enduring exile? They were grateful that God had brought them home, but they also felt the

weight of divine anger for their past sins. They were like children who had been disciplined by their parents — relieved to be back home, but still ashamed and trembling.

In that emotional moment, Israel called upon the name of Moses — their great historical leader, the mediator who had stood between God and the Hebrews during the Exodus. Invoking Moses' name symbolized their longing to be reconciled once again to God.

Putting aside that complex biblical background for a moment, when we look at the Israelites in Psalm 90, we see this truth: whether they were being praised by God or rebuked by God, they always returned to God.

I'm not sure if you've had the same experience as I have. When I was a kid, I sometimes stayed out playing too late or broke something, and I would feel nervous about going home. I worried about getting in trouble for losing something or when the promised time passed. Still, no matter how scared I was, I always went home.

And when I did, sometimes I was disciplined, and sometimes my parents comforted me. Either way, I went home. When I decided to go back home, even though I was in fear, I did not calculate the benefits or think it would be advantageous. Just simply, I went back home because it was my home and they were my parents.

Likewise, when we say “God is our eternal dwelling place,” we do not return to God because of what we gain. Personally, when I turn my heart toward God, it often brings more discipline than comfort. When we measure our relationship with God by benefits, peace, or safety, our hearts easily drift toward anything else that offers peace and safety.

The reason we can call God our eternal dwelling place is not because of what God gives us, but because of who God is. We can dwell in God because God is our

parent. God calls us God's children; God is our parent. This is the only reason we can dwell in God.

When people do not know about God, they cannot know that God is the only eternal dwelling place. Through Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and became the mediator between God and humans, people can know that God is the only dwelling place. Through Jesus Christ, we have been given access to dwell in God's presence. Because of Christ, we can now abide in the Eternal Dwelling Place — our God.

As we read and meditate on Psalm 90, may we offer our hearts fully to God. I hope we can dwell in God this week for one reason: our God. When we are joyful, let us dwell in God. When we are sad, let us dwell in God. When we are angry, let us dwell in God. In every circumstance, in any moment, let us dwell in our eternal God. Amen.