

**December 17, 2008**

**Psalm 134 (NASB)**

**Behold, bless the Lord, all servants of the Lord,  
Who serve by night in the house of the Lord!  
Lift up your hands to the sanctuary  
And bless the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion,  
He who made heaven and earth.**

“To the Temple nightshift....” That’s how this psalm might have been addressed if it had been sent out as an inter-office memo. Even though we are not Levites, we are a kingdom of priests, so we cannot deny the relevance of this little psalm. Its brevity is eclipsed only by Psalm 117, which is another reason we may not dwell for long on these few verses, but there is wisdom to be found in these words.

An important duty of those Levites and priests who served during the night watch was to maintain the ritual purity of the Temple. They were guards. The morning and evening sacrifices would have been completed before the arrival of the nightshift, but the Temple was—like God—ever awake. There was no time when it could be left unattended and at risk for defilement. This was, after all, the representative house of the Lord.

It is easy to see the parallels in our lives. The New Testament teaches that we are temples of God, that we are priests in the kingdom, and that we are responsible for the purity of ourselves and the church. We, however, should not take up these duties like overlords or professional accusers ready to slam the gates on those we define as unclean. We should tend to our responsibilities like servants whose strongest desire is to accomplish the Master’s mission.

This is a round-the-clock task. Our dedication to personal purity and the sanctity of the community should be ever before us. Whether by day or by night, our task is to prioritize our lives according to the order initiated by God, modeled by Christ, and taught throughout Scripture. If we can learn how to do that, then we will instinctively live in ways that bless the Lord at all times.

Isn’t it interesting that He who made heaven and earth invites us to be His servants and His watchmen?

In His service,  
Patrick Barber