



### Lesson #3: Yay Church! (Psalm 122)

Psalm 122 is a psalm of David. There are \_\_\_ Psalms of Ascent attributed to him. Here David is excited to just be in the house of God! He's not focused on the negatives like the last two psalms were, instead he is focused on the joy of basking in God's presence with likeminded brethren.

People give lots of reasons for *not* going to church, but there is one overriding reason why we *should* go and that is \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 122 is a song about going to church. It's a song of \_\_\_\_\_. The psalmist is saying that gathering with other believers is not a \_\_\_\_\_ on a to-do list; it's a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_! The weekly gathering of the church for worship should be one of your highest priorities and one of the high points of your week.

You should be \_\_\_\_\_ to go to church. In Psalm 122 we are given three specific reasons why we should be happy to go to church.

#### YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY TO GO TO CHURCH BECAUSE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ THAT GO THERE

The Psalms of Ascent remind us that as Christians we are on a journey but Psalm 122 reminds us that we are not on that journey alone.

- A. The church is a place united by \_\_\_\_\_**  
David said, "They said ... let us go" (122:1). The Jews in that time saw going to the tabernacle as a time when they could come together on common ground, for a common purpose. Petty disputes and family disagreements were put aside so they would \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord together.
- B. The church is a place united by \_\_\_\_\_**  
David says, "Wither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord" (122:4). The ancient Jews were a people connected by blood. They were family. When they came together for worship, it was a family affair. Scripture argues that the church is to function in a similar manner. When we come together, the \_\_\_\_\_ is coming \_\_\_\_\_. That's one reason why we should offer so many opportunities for fellowship. In a generation where many churches are eliminating services I would contend that we should be adding \_\_\_\_\_.

#### YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY TO GO TO CHURCH BECAUSE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR GOING THERE

There is tremendous benefit of gathering together each week. This benefit comes because we we know what we are doing (or at least we should).

- A. You go to church to \_\_\_\_\_ from God's \_\_\_\_\_**  
In verse 4 David speaks of "the testimony of Israel." He speaks specifically of the Ark of the Testimony which housed 3 items that testified of God.
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ testified of God's covenant
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ testified of God's preservation
  3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ testified of God's guiding
- When the people came to the temple they were coming to where God's testimony and law were. Even so, when we come to the church, we are coming to where God's Word is shared (1 Timothy 3:15).
- B. You go to church to \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_**  
David says that they go to "give \_\_\_\_\_ unto the name of the Lord" (122:4). The ancient Jews made their way to the House of God in Jerusalem at great personal cost. They believed He was worthy to be praised, so they paid the price, stood before His prescribed place, and praised His name!

#### YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY TO GO TO CHURCH BECAUSE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ YOU GAIN THERE

When you come to the place of worship you are forced to see things \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. You will gain a right perspective on \_\_\_\_\_**  
In an unjust world it is well for God's people to consider the justice of God. That is what David is singing about in verse 5. As he came to the temple every implement of worship housed there reminded him of God's justice.
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ spoke of the need for cleansing from sin
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ spoke of the need for propitiation
  3. The \_\_\_\_\_ spoke of God's separateness
- C.H. Spurgeon said, "To a true saint the throne is never more amiable than its judicial capacity; righteous men \_\_\_\_\_ judgement."
- B. You will gain a right perspective on \_\_\_\_\_**  
The sixth verse now focuses on our response to God's justice. The Spirit of God instructs those who sing to \_\_\_\_\_. We ought to recognize that it is God's desire that when His people come together they honor Him in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Concluding Thoughts

When a person stomps out of a church service complaining about the quality of music, a poorly delivered sermon, or the person who got under their skin there, he himself may be the problem. The "house of God" is there for you to get a \_\_\_\_\_. If you enter a church service expecting one, you have already taken the first step to \_\_\_\_\_ one.

