

Ascending by Attending (Church)

Psalm 122

A Song of Ascents. Of David. *If you love Christ, you will go up (ascend) with Him!*

I. The gladness of an ascending believer -

1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1

1. The Psalms of "ascent" seem to have been written for those travelling to, and climbing up to, Jerusalem, for worship of God!

2. We no longer have to go to Jerusalem -

¹⁹The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:19-24

"To Him who is everywhere men come not by travelling, but by loving" - Augustine

3. Yet, we are still supposed to gather to worship God, and should be glad to -

²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)

"Let us go into the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1 is the same as ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together

A. We should be glad when someone says to us, "let's go to church" "let's have a Bible study" Yet, this is the opposite of the Pastor's daughter I knew many years ago - Me: "Let's have a Bible study" / Pastor's Daughter: "No, I want to do something FUN!"

B. What is fun, exciting, worth your time depends on your mindset, depends on your heart -

⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:5-6 (NKJV)

C. Now those in Heaven, in the very throne room of God, cannot help but worship God -

⁸The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

*D. Yet, here on earth we behold Him in a mirror dimly or glass darkly KJV, we too often struggle (with the flesh) to worship Him rightly - ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, ... **1***

Corinthians 13:12 A

¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatians 5:17

The best gladness, like "joy" is a supernatural thing, a fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23

(1) As a fruit joy must be cultivated (2) Of the Spirit means true "joy" is supernatural!

II. A place and people built for worship, thanksgiving and justice -

Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, ⁴Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD. ⁵ For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David. Psalm 122:3–5

1. *Jerusalem was built, for the purpose, of going up Where the tribes go up / The tribes of the LORD*

This building was built for our going up, ascending to God! B. This street South Biscayne Dr. was built set aside for that purpose and we as God's people were built, even for this same purpose, as we are the people and Temple of God –

We are not already in Heaven, as the Four Living Creatures are but we are designed, built for the climb, we praise God as we travel and climb to Him! They were created for Heavenly Nearness and they praise Him with strength. We praise Him from a distance, with weakness, and often despite pain!

2. *There are three glorious things about coming to church –*

A. *Testimony – just being here shows we are God's people! Coming early shows it more! (Meaning before church service PRAYING) Coming regularly, consistently, coming "glad" shows it even more! EVEN, if we cannot make it, we still to PRAISE HIM –*

²⁴ **Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. Acts 16:24–26 (NKJV)**

B. *Thanksgiving - To give thanks to the name of the LORD. Psalm 122:4 Thank Him for saving you!*

C. *Justice - . ⁵ For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.*

Psalm 122:3–5 In Daniel 7 and in the Book of Revelation ungodly governments are called "beasts" they rule by brute force – God's Kingdom by just laws – Deuteronomy 4:8

- *Justice because we learn what is good and bad, right and wrong ... 2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- *Justice because we are the salt of the earth, light of the world – Matthew 5:13-14*

III. A place and people to pray for, a place and people of peace –

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. ⁷ Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." ⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good. Psalm 122:6–9**

1. *Pastor JE often greets me by telling me he is praying for us and you all pray for us*
2. *We pray for you too; we have been praying for you*
3. *Jerusalem, the church needs prayer too; the church as a whole is a sanctuary in a world that has no clue about real peace –*

²² **"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked." Isaiah 48:22 An ungodly world hates Christ and according to Christ hates us – John 15:18**

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1 Numbers 6:24-26

Know Jesus, Know peace, No Jesus, No Peace – Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 26:3-4; Matthew 5:9

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