

From the superscription it is clear that Psalm 92 was a Psalm written to be used by the Levites in the Temple worship service on the Sabbath day. Although all the Psalms have many private applications, this particular Psalm was primarily written for public adoration.

According to the Talmud (an official Jewish interpretation and commentary on the O.T.), this Psalm was sung at the libation of the wine which accompanied the sacrifice of the first male lamb on the Sabbath day burnt offerings. This was in accordance with the legal mandates of Numbers 28:9-10. This was a Psalm for corporate worship.

We do not exactly know who the writer was, but whoever he was, he certainly had a high and holy view of God. In fact, whenever any Psalm was written for corporate worship, it is a guarantee that it will be a Psalm that elevates God and emphasizes His sovereignty. It seems to me that the primary point is this:

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP, THEIR FOCUS SHOULD BE TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY ON GOD'S CHARACTER AND GOD'S WORK BECAUSE THIS IS GOOD TO DO IN GOD'S ESTIMATION.

If we were to quiz most who go to church and ask them why they go to a particular church, I am sure the answers would be varied. Some would say they go to church because this is the church to which I have always gone. Some would say I go to church because my family and friends go to this church. Some would say I go to church because the music is so lively and the band is good. **But it would be the rare individual who would say I go to church because I want to learn about God's character and God's work from a careful study of God's Word.** It is not the majority who think like this, but this Psalm does.

Now before we examine the Psalm, it is important to notice the opening words of **verse 1**, "It is good." What is in this Psalm is a good thing to do. It is good for people to go to corporate worship to worship God and to learn about God. It is a good thing to do. It is never superfluous to go to church to learn about God; it is a valuable thing to do in God's sight.

In this Psalm there are three wonderful, good worship actions of which to participate:

GOOD CORPORATE ACTION #1 – It is good to give thanks to God. **92:1**

One of the good things to do at corporate worship is to give thanks to God. Some go to corporate worship totally unthankful. In fact, some don't even want to go to corporate worship. They go because they have to go. But it is good when people are thankful for the privilege of going to worship and it is good when they go to worship with a heart and mind that are thankful for who God is and all God has done. This pleases God.

GOOD CORPORATE ACTION #2 – It is good to sing certain praises to God. **92:1b-4**

I have been very intrigued in going through the O.T., how few talented singers there really were in view of the thousands of people in Israel. For example, in I Chronicles 25:7, there were 288 skilled singers. By the time we get to the days of Ezra, the number is down to 200 skilled singing men and women (Ezra 2:65). So music was important to worship and it also was important that you had people who could actually sing these songs.

Now probably most churches would agree singing is a good thing to do; but when we carefully examine what is said in these verses, not too many places are actually singing in a way that God would classify as good. God does not want people singing shallow things. That is clear from these verses. Singing music is a good thing to do, but the music must be focused on singing what is true and theologically accurate about God.

Singing is a critical part of worship. Singing is the music seen in God's nature—the birds sing; Singing is the music of angels—the angels sing. Singing is the music in heaven—heaven sings. Singing is the music of the saints—both O.T. and N.T.. But we must not ever forget that if God wants music, Satan is going to use music to twist it away from what God wants.

The first thing we observe here is that singing was done as something to offer to the Most High God. Singing should always elevate God. Singing should never elevate man, and when we sing we should realize we are singing to God.

There are some key points to observe here about corporate worship and singing:

Point #1 - Singing was to focus on the person of God and the attributes of God:

Notice **verse 2**, corporate singing was to focus on God and declare truth about God.

He is God the “Most High” (**v. 1**);

He is a God who is “lovingkindness/mercy” (**v. 2**);

He is a God of “faithfulness” (**v. 2**);

He is a God of “sovereignty” – you have made me glad (**v. 4**).

Point #2 - Corporate worship took place morning and evening. **92:2**

There was a time when this concept of worship was universally held. Most places of worship had morning and evening services that focused on teaching the Word of God. But what has happened today is tragic. Because of lazy ministers and because of lousy elders and because of apathetic congregations, most churches do not have evening services. But it is a good thing to do. God loves it when His people go to church Sunday morning and Sunday evening to worship Him and learn about Him.

Point #3 - Corporate singing was accompanied by beautiful instruments. **92:3**

Now these instruments were used to accompany the singing. Notice the preposition “with.” The instruments were used to enhance the lyrics in a very meditative way. There was a ten-stringed “lute”; there was a “harp” and there was a “lyre.” These instruments were never to be used to draw attention to themselves, but to God.

Point #4 - Corporate singing was joyful because it focused on what God had done. **92:4**

Things God has done for us and given to us should make us glad and we should want to come to worship Him morning and evening.

GOOD CORPORATE ACTION #3 – It is good to focus on the greatness of God and the deep things of God. **92:5-15**

Notice how **verse 5** begins—God’s works are great and God’s thoughts are very deep. What this tells us is that corporate worship is not shallow, surface level worship. Study should not be silly, it should be serious. Coming to a true understanding of the Word of God and the doctrines of God require careful thought and very deep study. This is exactly why Paul told Timothy to study to accurately lay open the Word of God (II Tim. 2:15). Careful, thoughtful study is needed to tap into the deep things of God. It does not happen automatically. When people go to corporate worship with the goal of tapping into the deep things of God and the deep thoughts of God, it is considered by God to be a “good” thing.

Now there are four realities that people who go to corporate worship should realize:

Reality #1 - God permits a senseless and stupid man to flourish temporally for His sovereign purposes. **92:6-7**

Senseless and stupid people, from God’s perspective, do not understand the fact that corporate worship is supposed to be about a serious focus on God. Senseless and stupid people think worship should be about them and now we have taken it to another level by saying it should be about people who don’t even know God. Many are promoting the idea that corporate worship should be all about focusing on the unbeliever to make them feel good about themselves. That is not worship.

Now we get a major clue about senseless and stupid people from God’s classification in **verse 7**. Senseless and stupid people are totally focused on flourishing in this temporal life. Places of so-called worship that promote business seminars and financial seminars and worldly entertainment are leading the way in this stupidity. **CORPORATE WORSHIP IS TO BE ABOUT GOD.** Corporate worship is designed to teach careful and thoughtful meditative deep truth about God that focuses on the eternal and not the temporal. Spurgeon said there are many religious people who are stupid and silly. We should not respect them but see them as ungrateful degrading swine.

Now one of the things that senseless and stupid people do is they focus on the temporal and don't realize they have just sprouted up like grass for a short time and then they will be gone and destroyed forevermore (92:7).

They think they are prospering because the numbers appear to be on their side. People involved in perverse iniquity appear to flourish so they see no need of God and God says you are heading to eternal destruction. **When people go to corporate worship, they need to hear about this because this is the truth of God.**

Reality #2 - God is the exalted God forever . **92:8**

Do not gloss over this truth. God is the great exalted God forever. **Verse 8 sits in sharp contrast to verse 7.** Foolish men are totally focused on the temporal and God is the Most High God forever.

Many people think they are so high and mighty. They will only strut around for a short time on this earth and then they will be gone. When they go to worship, they need to hear this.

Reality #3 - God will destroy His enemies. **92:9**

There are uncertain things in this world, but this fact is always certain—God's enemies will perish. Every unbeliever will perish and when people go to worship services they need to hear this.

God is not just a God who will let any person go to heaven. God is a God of wrath and Paul said apart from faith in Jesus Christ, we are "enemies" of God (Rom. 5:10). Now **verse 9** says the enemies of God will perish because of their iniquity. They will be scattered, which certainly suggests that eternity will not be a big gathering of God-mocking buddies.

Reality #4 - God will always bless righteous and faithful people. **92:10-15**

There are about six blessings promised to those who go to corporate worship with a right focus on God:

(Blessing #1) - God will exalt His people. **92:10a**

(Blessing #2) - God will anoint His people. **92:10b**

(Blessing #3) - God will allow His people to witness the destruction of their enemies . **92:11**

(Blessing #4) - God will cause His people to flourish . **92:12**

Those who keep their focus on God will become strong like a tree with deep roots. The palm tree stands tall and strong even in desert areas.

Surrounded by dirt and dryness, palm trees grow tall. The cedars of Lebanon were known to be massive strong trees. The point of this Psalm is that those who stay focused on God and His Word will become strong.

(Blessing #5) - God will cause corporate worship to flourish. **92:13**

Don't miss this. You become strong and solid and you flourish when you go to God's place of worship.

(Blessing #6) - God will allow His people to produce fruit in old age. **92:14**

The truth is age typically makes things decay; but not for faithful people of God. They become more stable and fruitful. They have more knowledge. They have better character. They develop enduring patience. They have an eternal focus. They are skilled apologists and evangelists.

After promising these blessings the Psalmist says when people go to corporate worship they need to totally and completely focus on God. Declare how holy and upright God is. Declare that God is our rock of salvation and that there is no unrighteousness in Him.