

Going to Church
(Meditation on Psalm 122:1)
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Psalm 122:1

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Did you attend church this Sunday? Were you glad to be in God's house? Here is a little background for this Psalm. The "house of the LORD" (vv. 1, 9) was probably a term used of the tabernacle (Ex. 23:19; 34:26; 2 Sam. 12:20) and not the temple which would be built later by Solomon. In this verse, David was expressing his great joy over Jerusalem, which he had settled by defeating the Jebusites (2 Sam. 5) and the bringing of the tabernacle and ark for permanent residency within the city (2 Sam. 6). Jerusalem became the place where God would manifest His dwelling and presence within the portable house God had instructed them to build. Even though there was no temple in David's day, still, there was indeed a "house of the Lord" on Mount Zion.

Others suggest that "the house of the LORD" could be a reference to the temple. David's desire and song is seen to be ultimately fulfilled during Solomon's reign (1 Kings 4:24, 25). It is suggested that the Psalmist (David) wrote songs for others to sing, just as Christian hymn-writers have done for others. This could be in one sense a "traveling song" for the worshippers going up to Jerusalem. It's argued that David wrote this song for future worshipers who would go up to

Solomon's temple (the house of the LORD) on their pilgrimages. Three times a year all the males of Israel were required by God's law to attend feasts in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:17; 34:23; Deut. 16:16).

David no doubt intended the song to encourage the tribes of Israel to regard Jerusalem as the rallying center of the nation. Of course, the temple of Jerusalem was the place where God promised to meet His people. When the temple was finished, in accordance with the instructions given to David, Solomon dedicated it, making repeated references to it as the place where God was to be found. The Shekinah glory cloud, resting on the temple in former times, confirmed that this was so.

No matter which view one adopts (tabernacle or temple), we can be sure that "the house of the LORD" was in Jerusalem. It was a special place of gladness, where worship would take place, as God manifested His presence to His beloved people. For this study, we want to apply and liken "the house of the LORD" to the local church that God has ordained as the center of worship and fellowship for New Testament believers (Acts 2:42). We also have a house that we should treasure and long to be in every Sunday (1 Cor. 16:2). We should desire to be in the "Lord's House" on the "Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10). The beginning of the week (Sunday) should be a day of excitement, longing, eagerness, wonder, and anticipation, as we enter the Lord's House to worship God and learn His Word, so we can apply it to our lives. It's a day of fellowship around God's eternal truth.

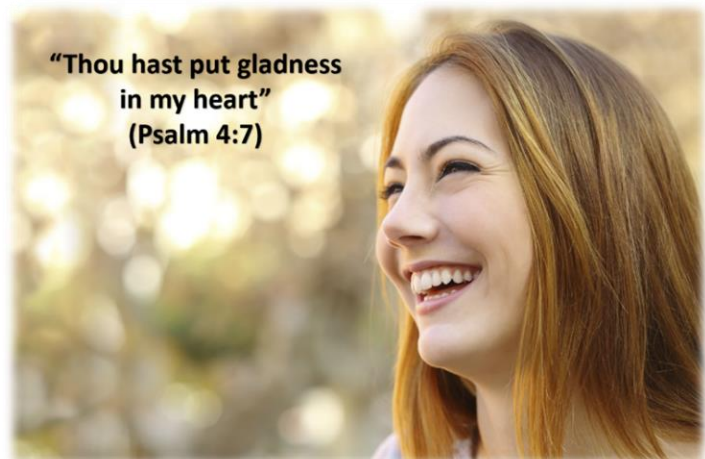
"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love!
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above."

There are three observations in Psalm 122:1 that relate to attending church.

1. Attitude of joyfulness – "I was glad"

Psalm 27:6

"And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."



Psalm 100:1-2

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”

John Phillips said:

“All too often the Lord's people find it more of a duty than a delight to go to the place where God's people gather in the name and around the person of the Lord Jesus.”

This was not the case with David. He had a deep desire and longing to be in God's House and express worship to the Lord. Today worship is often mistaken for “getting” instead of “giving” back to God. When we go to church, it should be a time when we give our hearts to the Lord, express our appreciation to Him, ascribe to God His worth, and what He means to us.

Worshipping the Lord brings gladness into our heart and soul. This is why David said he “was glad” when he went “into the House of the LORD.” Worship fills the soul with gladness. It's a thrilling experience to worship the God of eternity and Heaven. Our hearts become filled and overflowing as we express God's worth and meditate upon His greatness, glory, and grandeur, as the majestic God of the eternal ages, who is concerned about our personal lives.

“O worship the King All glorious above!
Oh gratefully sing His power and His love!
Our shield and Defender, The Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, And girded with praise.”

1 Chronicles 16:29

“Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 5:7

“But as for me, I will come *into* thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: *and* in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.”

What about you? Have you been experiencing gladness and wonder in your worship of the Lord? Do you come to church with the excitement and zeal of expressing God's worth back to Him and giving to Him the worship that is due His name? We do this as we sing hymns, study our Bibles, open our hearts to the Lord, and give testimony to His amazing grace and mercy.

Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Worship is giving – not getting. So, when we worship God, it’s then that our heart is filled with gladness and joy, as we contemplate or meditate upon His personal loveliness, greatness, grace, and all the personal blessings that He showers upon our own hearts and lives.

Psalm 95:6

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.”

Psalm 96:9

“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.”

Worship is all about God. It’s not about man, lights, stage presence, backgrounds, media and the plethora of others things that are used as artificial stimulants of worship today. To jade the sensations of people through the secular sounds of rock music and create a certain feeling or euphoria that passes as worship is a disgrace to God and misrepresents God’s character of holiness and righteousness (1 Cor. 10:31).

William Temple wrote:

“To worship is:
To quicken the conscience by
the holiness of God.
To feed the mind with the
truth of God.
To purge the imagination with
the beauty of God.
To open the heart to
the love of God.
To devote the will to the
Purpose of God.”



Scripture commands that believers worship and meditate upon God’s person (Ps. 27:4; 63:6), God’s Word (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2), and God’s works (Ps. 143:5; 145:5). There is certainly a lot of gladness and wonder associated with ascribing to God His greatness and meditating upon His blessings which He has bestowed upon us (Eph. 1:3). This is what David was referencing when

speaking of experiencing gladness in relation to worshipping God in His house. There is plenty of gladness to go around!

Charles Spurgeon wrote this of David's gladness:

"He was **glad for the sake of others**: glad that they wished to go themselves, **glad** that they had the courage and liberality to invite others. He knew that it would do them good; nothing better can happen to us than to love the place where God's honor dwells ... But David was **glad for his own sake**: he loved the invitation to the holy place, he delighted in being called to go to worship in company, and, moreover, he rejoiced that good people thought enough of him to extend their invitation to him ... He was **glad** to go into the house of the Lord, **glad** to go in holy company, **glad** to find good men and women willing to have him in their society. He may have been sad before, but this happy suggestion cheered him up. He pricked up his ears at the very mention of his Father's house."

Later Spurgeon applies this truth:

"Is it so with us? Are we **glad** when others invite us to public worship, or to church fellowship? ...The pastor is specially **glad** when many come forward and ask of him assistance in entering into fellowship with the church. No language is more cheering to him than the humble request, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

Is your heart thrilled with overflowing joy when you attend church? If not, why not? Maybe you need to look deep within yourself and make sure that your own heart is open to God's Word, truth, leading and reassess why you have not been drawing near to God privately and corporately in devotion, meditation, and prayer (Heb. 10:22; James 4:8). If you don't feel close to God – guess who moved?



Many times when we think that the preacher, singing, and church service is dull or boring, it's because we have stepped outside of God's will for our life and are harboring worldliness and fleshly things in our hearts and lives. When this happens, our worship loses its wonder, gladness, and joy. A worldly heart interferes with true worship of God. Worldliness takes away our song of gladness. This is because we are living in a strange land that zaps the joy of the Lord from our heart and worship.

Psalms 137:4 "How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?"

Beloved, we need to return to “Beulah land” once again (Isa. 62:4) where we experience a personal and deepening relationship with God, where we delight ourselves in the Lord (Ps. 37:4) and experience the wonder of His companionship and blessing in our life. Beulah land is the place of personal intimacy with God, spiritual enrichment, the secret place (Ps. 91:1) that we share with God.

“My Savior comes and walks with me,
And sweet communion here have we;
He gently leads me by His hand,
For this is Heaven’s borderland.

O Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land,
As on thy highest mount I stand,
I look away across the sea,
Where mansions are prepared for me,
And view the shining glory shore,
My heav’n, my home forevermore!”

2. Invitation by others – “when they said unto me”

David was excited when somebody invited him to church! There are people everywhere who need us to give them an invitation to church. In fact, you might be surprised when they say, “Yes, I’ll go to church with you.”

Hebrews 10:25

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Luke 14:23 illustrates this invitation:

“And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

Let’s not forget the power of an invitation!

- An invitation makes us feel special.
- An invitation makes us feel wanted and accepted.
- Jesus extended invitations to others (“Come and dine” - John 21:12).
- People extend invitations to their families and friends.
- We should extend invitations to others to visit our local church.



Inviting others to church has become a lost art since so many people, especially millennials, are not interested in attending church. Many Christians have given up. But instead of reading the statistics given by the church gurus, we need to believe in God's power and work taking place in the hearts and lives of people (Acts 2:37; Phil. 2:13), and reignite the spark of inviting others to attend the local church. We need to exhort them to be faithful to God's House, to come and learn, grow, and become part of the local church ministry, which God has ordained as the center of fellowship, preaching, and spiritual growth. Stay excited about church life and ministry. Of course, this is not an artificially produced zeal, but an internal gladness within our hearts (Ps. 122:1), knowing that we will meet with God at church, and desiring others to also experience this same blessing we receive when attending church. Keep inviting people to church!

One evangelist told me, "You never know what God will do." This is true. We never know how God is working in the hearts of people. God is always working in ways we know nothing about (Isa. 55:8) and His power is greater than statistics (1 Cor. 1:18; 2:5). And something else is true. If you can explain what is happening; God didn't do it!

3. Priority of importance – "Let us go into the house of the LORD"



Psalm 27:4

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD..."

Revelation 1:10

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet."

Hebrews 10:25

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is ..."

We need to remember that Sunday is the "Lord's day." It's not our day. This means it should not be our practice to skip church for the sake of other commitments, whether secular or recreational. It's not "family day" as some have told me over the years. On second thought, it really is family day. Men, bring your family to church. You can have a wonderful day together!

Matt Costella wrote:

“Christians are often putting family time and family activities before the things of the Lord – things such as church attendance or Bible study. Yes, Satan can use the family, as important as it is, to keep the saint from faithfully following the Savior. We must be careful not to fall prey to family idolatry. Rather, we must love God above all else.”

Psalm 84:10

“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

It would seem that pastor’s need to start blowing the whistle and challenge those believers who are failing to attend church on a regular and consistent basis. The matter of faithful church attendance in the Christian life needs to be addressed in these last days of carefree living and when there is so much to distract the believer from attending church regularly.

The smaller, Bible-believing, independent churches are suffering because there are many Christians who lack dedication to the church services and they opt out, when it comes to their involvement in church life and ministry. Many times Christians are dedicated to everything else except to church! They are putting their programs, plans, and particular interests before church attendance and what God expects from their lives. They are also sending wrong messages to their children concerning the importance of church attendance. When parents are frequent church skippers, or ecclesiastical hitchhikers, they can be sure that their children will grow up with the same habits.

Luke 6:46

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

Let’s set the record straight; a person’s church attendance reveals the level of their discipleship or commitment to Jesus Christ. God expects us to attend church regularly, so we can be guided by the Word of God, and discover what it means to be a follower of the works and ways of Jesus Christ.

There is an old quartet song that gets to the heart of the matter when it comes to missing church.

“In summertime it is too hot, in winter it's too cold;
In spring and fall when the weather's nice
There’s some place else to go --
Either to the mountains or to the beach, or visit some old friend;
Or stay at home and hope that some of the relatives will drop in.

A headache every Sunday morn, and a backache Sunday night;
But by the time on Monday you're feeling quite all right.
But maybe some of the children had a cold –
Pneumonia, you suppose --
So all the family had to stay at home –
And blow the poor child's nose!

Excuses, excuses; you'll hear them every day
The devil will supply you, if from Church you'll stay away.
When people come to know the Lord, the devil always loses,
And so to keep them from the Church he offers them EXCUSES!!!!”

Here are some good reasons for attending church:

- God's Word commands it.
- It's the Lord's Day.
- I can hear the Word.
- I can worship God.
- I can give my money to God
- I can use my gifts.
- I can pray with God's people.
- I can partake of the Lord's Table with deep gratitude.
- I need Christian fellowship & encouragement.
- Others need my encouragement.
- I'm teaching my children commitment to God.
- I love God more than anything else.
- Jesus is coming!



Psalm 122:

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

Church is labeled as God's House (“**the house of the LORD**”) for five reasons.

a. It's because church is where God's presence should be sensed.

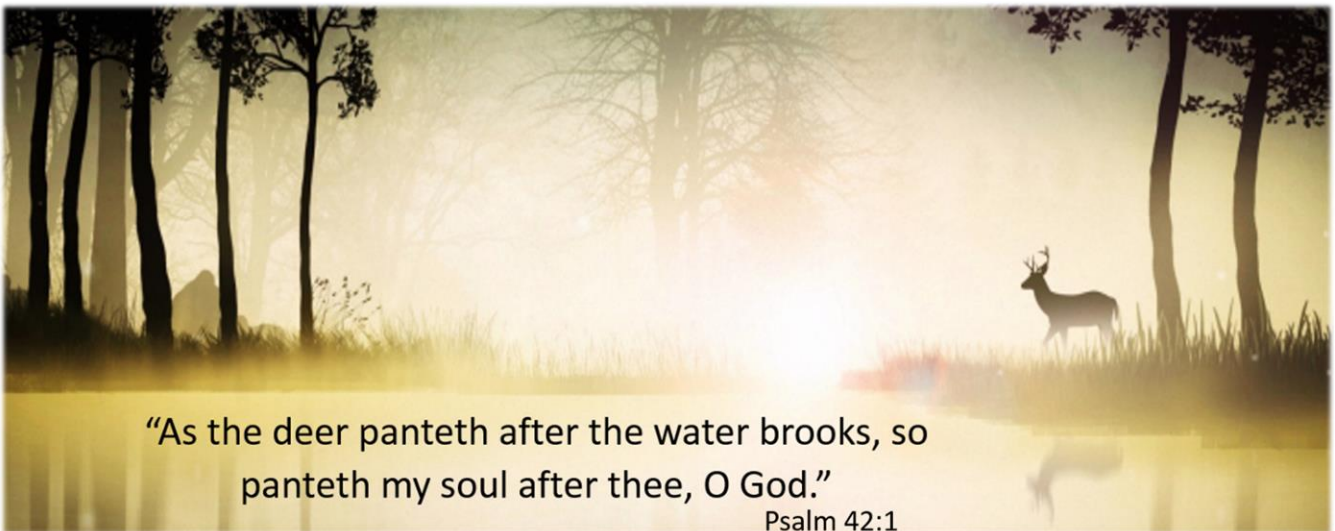


Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”

Psalm 27:8

“*When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.”



“As the deer panteth after the water brooks, so
panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

Psalm 42:1

“Beyond the sacred page, I seek Thee Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word!”

A. W. Tozer said:

“God is trying to call us back to that which He has created us, to worship and enjoy Him forever!”

Have you been enjoying the presence of the Lord? How close are you to God today? Do you sense His nearness in your life or does God seem somewhat distant to you? Remember that the measure of your church attendance and the level of your gladness and joy is often a reflection of your nearness to the Lord (Phil. 4:4-5).

Though a Messianic Psalm, Psalm 16:11 was also David's personal experience:

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore."

David experienced this "fulness of joy" when walking with God and he would one day experience it in a far great capacity when He enters the very presence of God in Heaven. We too should experience this same kind of joy today as we walk close to the Lord and enjoy His presence. We need a taste of Heaven on earth (Deut. 11:21). Is Jesus Christ the joy of your life today? If not, you need to allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate this joy and personal relationship with God once again. Then you will be able to say, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Ps. 122:1).

b. It's because church is where God's satisfaction and pleasures are experienced.



Psalm 36:8

"They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures."

The house of God (church) should be a wonderful experience that brings great satisfaction and blessing into one's heart who is in tune with God. The spiritual satisfaction and delightful pleasures we receive from worshipping God and hearing His Word would refer to both *quality* and *quantity*. F. B. Meyer pointed out, "God gives sorrows by cupfuls but pleasure by riverfuls!"

c. It's because church is where God's people are spiritually developed.

Psalm 92:12-13 "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God."

God's people are compared to flourishing trees in God's House. This means that God's children continue to flourish or blossom spiritually while attending God's House and they stay close to God. The word "flourish" is used three times in



Psalm 92:12-14. God's House is for the continued spiritual growth and development of God's children so they become more like Christ and are prepared to face life's challenges. God's house is "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12).

d. It's because church is where God's name should be revered.

God's house is to be represented as "holy convocations" (Lev. 23:2, 4, 37), or public meetings and assemblies where God's reverence is maintained.



Psalm 89:7

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him."

Hebrews 12:28

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

Psalm 96:9

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth."

"But to Thy house will I resort
To taste Thy mercies there;
I will frequent Thy holy court,
And worship in Thy fear."

Not only has inviting people to church fallen on hard times, reverence in many local churches or assemblies has become a lost art. Most churches have adopted the marketing techniques of canned music, carnal expressions of man-centered worship, and carefully planned programs in order to target certain age groups and lure people into church. Call it what you may, "seeker friendly" or the "seeker sensitive" experience, all of the theatrics in the church today are nothing more than a pagan perversion of true worship, which always reflects order, decency, and reverence for God and His holy character ("Let all things be done decently and in order" - 1 Cor. 14:40).

Paul reminds us that the local assemblies should “set in order the things that are wanting” (Titus 1:5) and “that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God” (1 Tim. 3:15). The contemporary movement of worship has been weighed and found wanting. It lacks reverence for God and His House. It turns worship into theatrics and worldly entertainment. It cheapens the things of God.

It has been said:

“When ministry becomes performance, then the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes entertainment, and man’s applause and approval become the measure of success.”

A. W. Tozer speaks pointedly when saying:

“The church that can’t worship must be entertained. And men who can’t lead a church to worship must provide the entertainment. That is why we have the great evangelical heresy here today - the heresy of religious entertainment.”

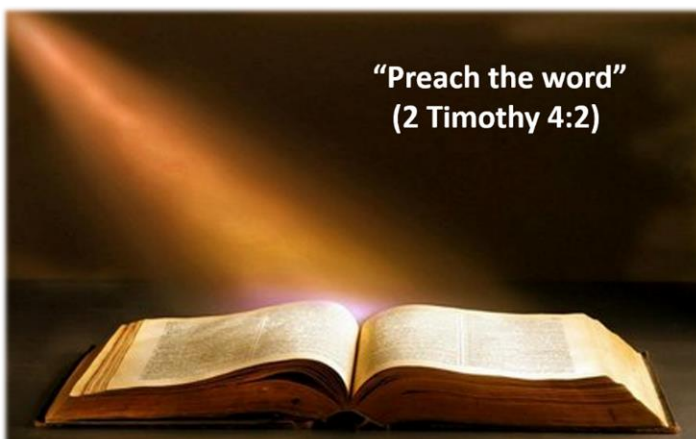
Isaiah 6:1-3

“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.”

Tozer finishes with these words:

“But a man who has passed through the veil and looked even briefly upon the holy place of Isaiah’s God can never be irreverent again.”

e. It’s because church is where God’s Word should be preached.



Nehemiah 8:5

“And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up.”

1 Timothy 3:15 speaks of “the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” If the truth cannot be fearless proclaimed in the church, then what place is there for the truth? God’s house is where God’s truth is to be unapologetically proclaimed and fearlessly taught every Sunday. The command to every preacher is straightforward: “Preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2).

Psalm 86:11 should be our innermost desire:

“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.”



“There’s a dear and precious Book,
Though it’s worn and faded now,
Which recalls those happy days of long ago,
When I stood at mother’s knee,
With her hand upon my brow,
And I heard her voice in gentle tones and low.

Blessed Book, precious Book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweeter day by day, as I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above.

Well, those days are past and gone,
But their memory lingers still
And the dear old Book each day has been my guide;
And I seek to do His will,
As my mother taught me then,
And ever in my heart His Words abide.

Blessed Book, precious Book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweeter day by day, as I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above."

Is the Bible still precious to your heart? Do you long to hear it expounded and explained to you, so that you can drink it in and find guidance for your life and nourishment for your soul? Are you overwhelmed with gladness when entering God's House and ready to hear from Heaven as Bible truth, God's very own Word (2 Tim. 3:16), is faithfully presented to you? The Christian is to possess a burning desire to hear and know the truth.

Luke 24:32

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Charles Spurgeon once said:

"I fall before the majesty of revelation"

Do we come to church with this kind of *respectful* and *submissive* attitude toward the Bible? Do we come ready to hear from God's Word and then obey it? Jeremiah wrote long ago: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart ..." (Jer. 15:16). Yes, we should be glad to enter the house of God every Sunday and service. We should come with great anticipation to hear from God as the Bible is faithfully preached and taught from the pulpit. Coming to church should not be a drudgery but a delight. It should be a time when we surrender to God's spoken Word (James 1:22) and possess godly fear, wanting to please the Lord with our life and obedience ("Fear God, and keep his commandments" – Eccl. 12:13). The fear of God is something that is spiritually healthy. It consists of reverencing God, respecting His holiness, and possessing a wholesome dread of not pleasing God with my life. It is an inner desire of wanting to properly represent God's character of purity, an awareness of wanting to emulate His righteous ways, in order to please the Lord (Deut. 6:2, 24; 13:14; 17:19; Joshua 24:14; Prov. 9:10; Eph. 5:21; Heb. 12:28).

"We, Thy people, now draw near;
Teach us to rejoice with trembling,
Speak, and let Thy servants hear-
Hear with meekness,
Hear Thy word with godly fear."

Psalm 122:1

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”



There was a 100-year-old church member who was having his birthday celebration at his church he had faithfully attended since he was a young man. At his birthday celebration, after everyone had cake, ice cream, gave him cards and gifts in the fellowship hall, the entire group of family and friends, numbering over 100 people, were asked to come to the church sanctuary. His great grandson, a young man in his early thirties, had him come to the pulpit.

Before most of the church congregation, he was asked the question, in a loud voice, "Great Grandpa, we all know that you can barely hear and you cannot see, so tell us, why do you still go to church every Sunday?" The 100-year-old, faithful Christian, answered, "Because I love Jesus with all my heart, He commanded me to be here and I just want to show everybody whose side I'm on."

Psalm 122:1

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

“There’s a place dear to me where I’m longing to be,
With my friends at the old country church,
There with mother we went and our Sundays were spent,
With the friends at the old country church.
Precious years of memory,
Oh what joy they bring to me,
How I long once more to be,
With the friends at the old country church.”

Psalm 122:1

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

If we have lost the gladness, longing, and anticipation of attending church, meeting with God’s people, worshipping our great, wonderful, merciful, and gracious God, and hearing God’s truth (2 Tim. 2:15) presented to us, then we must examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5) and make sure that the cloud of sin is not blocking our gladness and joy of worship.

Albert Einstein once wrote:

“The fairest thing we can experience is the mysterious. He who knows it not, can no longer wonder, no longer feel amazement, is as good as dead, a snuffed-out-candle.”

Although not a Christian, I think Einstein was on to something. As a Christian, we always must possess an element of wonder, amazement, and mystery in our hearts about God and His ways.



“God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.”

A continual sense of mystery, excitement, and gladness should be in our hearts when attending church and worshipping God (Ps. 122:1). When we attend God’s house and open our hearts to our great, big, loving, wonderful God and Savior (Isa. 9:6),

whose ways are “past finding out” (Rom. 11:33), we should expect to hear from Him, sense His presence, worship Him, and see the wonder of His greatness and ways. When we lose our wonder and amazement toward God, through spiritual neglect of our soul, we lose our song of gladness and joy (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Church then becomes “business as usual.”

Sadly, some Christians really don’t know God. They relegate God to their “copilot” and have lost the wonder of His greatness, power, works, who He really is, and how deeply He loves them. It’s no wonder why their worship has grown cold and why church is boring to them. Our gladness can only be restored when confession is made (1 John 1:9) and the sense of God’s wonder is regained. There are wonders all around us that reflect the wonder of God.

“There's the wonder of sunset at evening.”



“The wonder as sunrise I see”



“But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God
loves me!”

“There's the wonder of springtime”



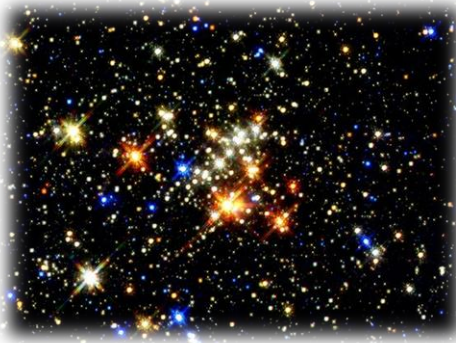
“and harvest”



“The sky”



“the stars”



“the sun”



“But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that's
only begun.”

“Oh, the wonder of it all,
The wonder of it all
Just to think that God loves me!
The wonder of it all,
The wonder of it all -
Just to think that God loves me!”



The wonder and amazement of God and His love for us keeps our heart glad! It keeps us attending church where we can experience the green pastures and still waters (Ps. 23:2) that God's under-shepherds want to lead us to (1 Pet. 5:2). Christian friend, don't ever lose the wonder of it all! When you enter God's house on Sunday with a sense of wonder and amazement about God, with the anticipation that you are going to receive something new, fresh, and life-changing from God's Word, and with a readiness to enter in to a time of reverent worship with the Lord who created, loved, and saved you, then you will be glad to go into the house of the Lord. This is because when you meet with God and hear from the Lord, as the Bible is taught, your time in church will be a rich and rewarding experience. David explained it in this way: "My cup runneth over" (Ps. 23:5). No wonder he said, **"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the LORD" (Ps. 122:1).**

There is nothing better than spending Sunday in the Lord's House, where we can worship the Lord, hear from Heaven, and let God's truth direct our lives. Sunday is to be the day of all days! It's not just another day. It's the day!

Psalm 84:10

"For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Here is a prayer we can use as we contemplate attending church this week, possessing a reverent or respectful fear of God, wanting to hear from Heaven, worship Him, and desiring to give praise and glory to the Lord with gladness and joy.



**"Almighty God! our hearts incline
Thy heavenly voice to hear;
Let all our future days be Thine,
Devoted to Thy fear."**

