



# Why Should Going to Church Make Us Glad?

Lesson 5 • Psalm 122

## Where Are We On Our Journey to Joy?

The first Psalm of Ascents—*Psalm 120*—had us **LIVING IN** Meshech and Kedar surrounded by hostile people in a world filled with distressing trouble!

The second Psalm of Ascents—*Psalm 121*—has us **ON THE MOVE** as we begin our journey to joy surrounded by dangerous mountains, difficult terrain, the searing heat of the burning sun, and the fierce cold of moonlit nights.

The third Psalm of Ascents—*Psalm 122*—has us **ARRIVING** at Jerusalem in joyful anticipation of worshipping in God’s presence with God’s people in God’s place!

PSALM 120	PSALM 121	PSALM 122
<i>Stuck in Mechesh!</i>	<i>On the Move!</i>	<i>Arrived at Jerusalem!</i>
SUFFERING HURT in a Hostile World	SEEKING HELP in a Hostile World	SAVORING HAPPINESS in a Hostile World
TROUBLING CONFLICT	TRUSTFUL CONFIDENCE	TRIUMPHANT CELEBRATION
Singing & Praying in GRIEF	Singing & Praying with ASSURANCE	Singing & Praying in GLADNESS
The LORD Hears Us	The LORD Helps Us	The LORD’S House Welcomes Us

## Will Our Journey to Joy Be Worth It When We Look Back?

### Overview of the Structure of the Song

A Personal **RECOLLECTION** after Returning from Worshipping in God’s Presence with God’s People in God’s Place:

**A Pilgrim’s PASSION:** The **INVITATION** to Go and Worship was Received with Gladness (v. 1)

**A Pilgrim’s PRAISE:** The **CELEBRATION** Upon Arriving at the City Where God’s Presence is Worshipped by God’s People (vv. 2-5)

**A Pilgrim’s PRAYER:** The **INTERCESSION** Upon Returning from the City Where God’s Presence is Worshipped by God’s People (vv. 6-9)

### What’s the Difference Between an Israelite “Going to the House of Lord” Under the Old Covenant in the OT and a Believer from Any People Group “going to Church” Under the New Covenant in the NT?

- 1) The Church does not simply **REPLACE** or equal Israel in the NT!
- 2) The principle of worship is the **SAME**: God’s people worshipping God’s presence in God’s place!
- 3) But the “House of the LORD” is no longer **LIMITED** to **one building** in **one place** in the midst of **one people group!**
- 4) Because God’s promise is now **PARTIALLY FULFILLED** in the coming of the King in the Person of Jesus, who is the Christ that initiated the New Covenant by His blood.
- 5) The “Temple” is now **FOCUSED ON** the **glorified body** of our risen and reigning LORD, the diverse **universal body** of all His followers, the many **local body** of believers gathered in worship, and the **individual body** of each believer indwelt by the Holy Spirit!

*“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.” 1Timothy 3:15*

*“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.” Hebrews 12:22–24*

## WHY Should Going to Church Make Us Glad?

### 1. The **PURPOSE** for going should make us glad.

*Worshipping together unites us under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (vv. 1, 4, 9)*

- The purpose is stated clearly in **verse 4** = **“to give thanks to the Name of the Lord!”**
- We gather under the lordship/kingship of Jesus Christ in **verse 5**– **this is what unites us!**
- Untied in worship under the lordship/kingship of Christ should put an end to all “Worship Wars” forever!

## 2. The PEOPLE who gather together should make us glad.

*Worshipping together **gathers us** in community. (vv. 1)*

- Worship together is an expression of our relationship with the Lord and our **FELLOWSHIP** with one another as His people. (vv. 1-2)
- Community is being **UNITED** together as worshippers in fellowship as a family! (v. 3-4, 8)

## 3. The PLEASURE of our God should make us glad.

*Worshipping together **obeys** God’s covenant commands and **fulfills** our covenant commitment. (v. 4)*

- Bringing pleasure to Him as our God should make us glad. *1Peter 2:4-5*

*“God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him.” ~ John Piper*

**So What Brings God Pleasure and Makes Him Glad?**

- Keeping our **PROMISE** to worship Him as Our God brings Him pleasure. *Hebrews 10:23-25*
- Proclaiming His **GLORY** through our worship brings Him pleasure and makes Him known to others for their good. *1Peter 2:9-10*

## 4. The PERSPECTIVE that is gained should make us glad.

*Worshipping together **provides** us with divine counsel. (v. 5)*

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.” Psalms 111:10*

- Worship provides us with greater **WISDOM**: *Seeing life from God’s perspective and living accordingly. Colossians 3:16-17; Ephesians 5:17-21*

*“Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.” Psalms 34:11*

*“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.” Psalms 19:9*

- Wisdom points us toward deeper **WORSHIP**: *Fearing the LORD and giving Him the glory He is due in all areas of our life.*

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7*

## 5. The PROMISE that is guaranteed should make us glad.

*Worshipping together **focuses us** on the second coming, kingdom conquest, and the New Creation. (v. 5)*

*“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”  
Matthew 26:29*

## 6. The PEACE that is given should make us glad.

*Worshipping together **gives us** peace in the midst of growing conflict. (vv. 6-9)*

## WHAT Should We Do After Leaving Church?

### 1. PRAY for the Prince of Peace to come again and bring peace to Jerusalem.

*“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, And prosperity within your palaces.’” Psalms 122:6-7*

*“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:9-10*

*“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.” 1Timothy 2:1-6*

### 2. PROCLAIM the Gospel of Peace to others for their sake.

*“For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, ‘May peace be within you.’” Psalm 122:8*

*“and having shod ‘your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;” Ephesians 6:15*

### 3. PURSUE what will bring God the greatest glory and His people the greatest good, while seeking to live in peace with all people.

*“For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.” Psalm 122:9*

*“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” Galatians 6:10*

*“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14*

*“Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.” Romans 12:17-18*

*“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” 1Timothy 6:17-19*

*“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. for,*

*the one who desires life, to love and see good days,  
must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.  
He must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer,  
but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” 1Peter 3:8-12*

## So Let's Be Glad Going to Church and Ready to Do Good After Leaving Here!

### Application for Going Further Up, Further In

- Be intentional in pursuing true worship: **Come to church for the right reasons and be glad you can do so!**
- Be intentional in praying for true worship to increase here at Glenwood and spread to all people groups: **Leave church with passion to share the gospel and do good for the sake of others and our great God!**