



Glad To Be Here!

Psalm 122:1-9

#21 in a series on the Psalms

Pastor Lyle L. Wahl

September 12, 2010

Theme: **True, Joyful Worship Flows From A True, Sharp Focus.**

True Gladness.

1. Looking at the word.

(1; cf. 19:8; 68:3; 89:16; 104:34; 118:24; 119:62; Nehemiah 8:10; Matthew 5:12; 1 Corinthians 12:26; 13:6; 1 Peter 1:8; 3 John 1:3)

2. Looking at King David's example. (1-5; cf. 42:4)

True, Sharp Focus.

1. A special place for worship.

(1-5; cf. 23:6; 27:4; 48:9-14; 68:16; 74:7; 76:2; 132:13-18; 1 Chronicles 15:1 - 16:43)

2. A special gathering in worship.

(2-4; cf. Exodus 12:1-36 & Leviticus 23:4-5; Leviticus 23:15-22, 33-44; Acts 2:40-47; Hebrews 10:19-25)

3. A special purpose for worship.

(4; cf. 30:4, 12; 33:2; 35:18; 92:1; 100:4; 105:1; 111:1; 136:1-26; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation 4:5-11; 11:15-19)

4. A special commitment to peace for worship.

(6-9; cf. 34:14; 125:1-5; Proverbs 3:1-2, 17; Matthew 5:23-24; Mark 9:5; John 14:27; 16:33; Romans 12:18; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 14:33; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 12:14)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. The gladness verse 1 describes is being glad or joyful with all of your being. Write out a list of what you are glad for/in with all of your being. Were you truly glad to come and be in the worship service yesterday? How often are you truly glad at the thought of going to, participating in a worship service?

Tuesday. Part of a sharp focus that leads to true, joyful worship is a focus on “the house of the LORD,” a special place for worship. We can and should worship God individually and in any place. While any church facility is not the same as the Old Testament Tabernacle or Temple, church facilities are special places dedicated to the worship of and ministry for God. How well do you have this in focus?

Wednesday. The travelers to Jerusalem looked forward to and were glad at the thought of those special gatherings. Worship together is not an extra, nor is it an optional feature of spiritual life—check out Acts 2:40-47 and Hebrews 10:19-25. Does your focus on the importance of worship together with the church community need to be sharpened? King David states the purpose of glad worship, “to give thanks to the name of the LORD” (4). Remember, to *give thanks* means to acknowledge and state the greatness and goodness of God. In this Psalm and in public worship we demonstrate our thankfulness by showing up gladly *and* stating our thankfulness to God as well as sharing it with others. This comes before any of the benefits we receive as we worship.

Thursday. The last section of the Psalm, verses 6-9, focuses on peace. It is a vital part of truly joyful worship. Peace in the gathering of and between worshipers. Check out the importance of this in Matthew 5:23-24 and Ephesians 4:1-3. We cannot control all the events or how others think of us, but we can face all the issues, be at peace, and be peacemakers. List the circumstances and relationships where you do not have peace. Make a commitment to do what God wants you to do to be at peace.

Friday–Saturday. Church Camp begins today and goes through Sunday. There will not be a worship service here at Knox on Sunday (September 19). On September 26 we plan to look at Psalm 23. Read and think through this familiar Psalm throughout the next week as you prepare for our time of worship together.

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