

Let Us Go Into The House Of The Lord

by

Ellis P. Forsman

Let Us Go Into The House Of The Lord

by

Ellis P. Forsman

October 7, 2011

Let Us Go Into The House Of The Lord

Psalms 122:1

Psalms 122:1, *“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”*

We see in these words the pleasure which David took in approaching the house of the Lord and entering therein to worship God. David was glad when he experienced this privilege.

- Psalms 84:1-4, *“How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.”*
- Psalms 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 is God’s will and command that we worship Him in public worship.

Psalms 116:18-19, *“I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. In the courts of the LORD’S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.”*

The early Christians worshipped the Lord regularly.

- Acts 2:42, *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*
- Acts 11:26, *“And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”*
- Acts 20:7, *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”*

Paul told the Hebrew brethren it was a sin not to assemble together.

Heb. 10:25-26, “*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. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*”

Can we join David in the words of this text? Psalms 122:1, “*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*”

The call to worship — “Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

Why worship?

Because it is a natural and necessary thing for man to do.

Man is a worshipping creature of religious instincts; wherever he has made history he has worshipped.

The Greeks called man “anthropos”, meaning “the upward-looking one”.

The word “worship” is found 190 times in the Bible.

- Matt. 4:10, “*Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*”
- Rev. 19:10, “*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*”
- Rev. 22:9, “*Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*”

We are commanded to make God the object of our worship.

Because worship makes the worshipper like the things he worships.

If the thing worshipped is lower than yourself, it will take you downward. It will lower your character. A false god will degrade and lower humanity. But if it is the God of heaven that you worship, that will lift you up.

2 Cor. 3:18, *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

Because in worship we are reminded of values which the world makes us forget.

When we gather in Christian worship, there is something that keeps us in remembrance that there is really more than what is seen or felt while with the world; that there are realities and interests beyond what our senses reveal to us.

In this world of things which we see and touch, we are made to feel as if there were nothing beyond them.

The very basis of worship is faith. Heb. 11:1, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

So we need to be brought face to face with the Most high God, and there be reminded of the real worth that this world makes us forget.

Those who say you don’t need to assemble to worship God actually don’t like to retain God in their mind anyway. It is just an excuse.

Because worship is an experience that rebukes the evil in one’s life.

Out in the world it is dangerously easy to get by with one’s conscience. There is a tendency to believe that there are plenty of people living worse than we are.

We are pretty good (we think) out in the world, but let a man come to worship and his worse self comes face to face with Someone better still.

- Psalms 42:2, *“My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”*
- Psalms 84:2, *“My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.”*

The place of worship — “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

God’s house is the place where He dwells.

Solomon prayed these words at the dedication of the temple: 1 Kings 8:27, *“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?”*

This was true in the Jewish dispensation; it is just as true in this age.

God dwells in the church. Eph. 2:22, *“In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

The church is God’s house. 1 Tim. 3:15, *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

The church is a spiritual house. 1 Pet. 2:5, *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

So, wherever Christians assemble for divine worship, God dwells there.

The spirit of worship — *“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.”*

David was sure of one thing — that it did him good to *“go into the house of the Lord.”*

God is Omnipresent, thus we cannot get away from His presence.

Psalms 139:7-10, *“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”*

But in public worship we draw closer to Him. James 4:8, *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”*

The true spirit of worship demands reverence.

- Psalms 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.”*
- Heb. 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.”*

He is not to be lowered to our level.

The worship of the apostolic Christians was truly an offering of the heart.

- 1 Cor. 14:15, “*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*”
- Eph. 5:19, “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*”
- Col. 3:16, “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*”
- Heb. 10:22, “*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*”

We should never forsake the worship.

Heb. 10:25-26, “*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. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*”

On God’s account.

1 Pet. 3:12, “*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*”

He is our Creator.

Psalms 100:3, “*Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*”

In worship we show our gratitude to Him, and He delights to see us do Him honor and homage in Christian worship.

He is our Father.

1 John 3:1, “*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*”

As a member of His family, in Christian worship we meet with the rest of His children.

One thing we enjoy about our family is to be together. Do we enjoy the fellowship and association of those in God's family?

On Christ's account.

- Matt. 18:20, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*
- John 12:26, *"... where I am, there shall also my servant be: ..."*

If you are not there you will fail to meet the Lord.

For the sake of the church.

The church is the body of Christ.

- 1 Cor. 12:27, *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."*
- Eph. 5:30, *"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."*

A missing member means a maimed body.

The church is the house of God.

1 Tim. 3:15, *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

A missing stone means an impaired building.

The church is God's flock.

Acts 20:28, *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*

One missing sheep would cause anxiety upon the part of the Chief Shepherd and His under-shepherds, the elders.

Heb. 13:17, *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*

For our own sakes.

The church needs us, but we need the church more.

There is great value in being together. Coals of fire together will burn, but apart they will go out.

Our heart goes where we go; hence, we should take our heart to the house of the Lord where it can be strengthened. At worship our faith will be strengthened, our hope will be increased, our lives will be broadened, our usefulness will be more effective, and our joy will be more complete.

Conclusion.

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

Let us never forsake the worship. Like participation in any other sin, to forsake it one time will make it easier to do so another time; then eventually your conscience will become seared.

The church says in the words of Moses, *“Come thou with us, and we will do thee good.”*

The church has blessings and promises from the Father. Men are in need of what there is available through it. Men laden with sin and sorrow can relieve these through the assembly with God.

