

Title: Glad to Go to the LORD's House

Text: Ps 122: 1-9

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Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 122: 1: « A Song of degrees of David. » I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. 2: Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. 3: Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: 4: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. 5: For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. 6: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7: Peace be within thy walls, *and* prosperity within thy palaces. 8: For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace *be* within thee. 9: Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

"The house of the Lord", "the city of God--true Jerusalem"--should be looked at in two ways. Here below it is where Christ has assembled his people to worship him. Above, it is where Christ is seated--his heavenly house, his heavenly city.

Proposition: As we sojourn through this world on our way to the heavenly, we are glad to gather to the LORD's house and city here below.

Subject: Glad to Go to the LORD's House

THE HEART THE LORD GAVE US

Psalm 123: 1: « A Song of degrees of David. » I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

The Lord has given us a heart we did not have before.

Before the Lord called us we were not glad to go to his house. Like every sinner comes into this world, we wanted nothing to do with the preaching of Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2: 14:...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

We did nothing to make ourselves glad to go to his house. We are glad because each one the Father chose, the Son redeemed, therefore, the Holy Spirit gave us an understanding of redemption Christ has accomplished for us.

1 Corinthians 2: 12: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Everything God gives his child is "freely given"--we did nothing to earn it--salvation is all of grace: free justification, free redemption, free regeneration, free preservation and one day free resurrection and free glorification. It is free to us because it cost God's own Son his precious blood in place of his people.

We were like everyone else in this world--but the Lord blesses his people.

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

It is only by the grace of God that we have been made to go to his house and hear the gospel preached.

Proverbs 14:6: A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. [how were we given this understanding?]

1John 5:20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Now we are glad to go together to his house because we have experience the power of our Savior through the preaching of his finished work at the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

The preaching of the cross is the preaching that gives Christ all the glory in all parts of salvation: chosen in him, made the righteousness of God in him and by him, called to faith in him, forgiven of all our sins for his sake, kept for his sake.

When a sinner has experienced Christ's Power in calling us through the preaching of the gospel then we cannot do without the gospel. We want to hear Christ alone preached. *We are glad when they said to us, let us go to the house of the Lord.*

Romans 8:5: For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

This gladness to assemble with his house and hear Christ magnified is what God said he works in those he calls.

Psalm 65: 4: Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

God's power and grace has given us a new heart so that we long to gather in his house.

Psalm 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....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.

You see, I am trying to magnify the Lord for giving us this gladness of heart to assemble to hear Christ magnified in the preaching of the gospel. He said,

Psalm 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Psalm 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.

Now, let's learn from these songs of degrees. These were the songs the children of Israel sang as they left their homes and travelled to Jerusalem to the feasts.

Psalm 120--"*woe is me for I dwell in Mesech*"--they have been in the world; they are distressed; weak. That is us at the end of a long week: looking to our aches and pains, troubles all around us.

Psalm 121--"*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord.*" They looked away from all below to Christ above. That is what we should do when troubles discourage us from assembling in the Lord's house. What will the Lord work in our heart when we cry to him in our distress?

Psalm 123--"*I was glad when they said, "let us go into the house of the Lord."* I have regretted not going to the Lord's house; but I have never regretted going. The Lord shall keep this gladness in our hearts.

WE SHALL STAND IN HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

Psalm 123: 2: Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

We marvel at this. We picture the children of Israel sojourning through the wilderness, marvelling, that soon they would stand within the gates of Jerusalem. Brethren, we have that same good hope--*our feet shall stand within the gates of heavenly Jerusalem.*

2 Thessalonians 2: 16...our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father,...hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Hebrews 6: 19 Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

An anchor is cast out of the boat. Our hope, as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, is not in something we do. It is Christ our great Priest seated at God's right hand. By Christ's holy person and his finished work of redemption, we have been given this good hope. He will not disappoint the hope he has given. One day, by his keeping power and grace, we shall stand within thy gates, O heavenly Jerusalem. So who do we praise for this good hope?

1 Peter 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

A CITY COMPACTED

Psalm 122: 3: Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

Christ compacts his saints together to make his holy city. The earthly city Jerusalem was so built, so compacted together, so adorned, no other city excelled it. So it is with Christ's local church over which Christ is the Head. *Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together.* He compacts us together and adorns us with his Spirit, his righteousness, his beauty.

Ephesians 4: [Christ is the Head of the body, the church]16 From whom **the whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, **according to the effectual working in the measure of every part** [according to Christ effectually working in measure in each of his saints; Christ], **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

THE TESTIMONY OF HIS SON

Psalm 122: 4: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD

Christ compacts us and adorns us by drawing us to his house to hear of God's testimony of his Son. we come here to give thanks unto the Lord for what he has done for us. Just as the Lord drew each of the tribes to go up to Jerusalem for the feast, so Christ keeps each and every one of his saints coming to his house to hear of Christ and his works.

The testimony of Israel--is God's testimony of his Son. Christ is Israel. God's testimony is of him. Thus Christ is our testimony--*the testimony of his chosen Israel.* "Testimony" means "witness." The testimony of God is of his Son, Jesus Christ and him crucified.

At Christ's baptism, God the Father testified of his Son

Matthew 3: 17: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

On the Mt of Transfiguration, God the Father bore witness of his Son. Peter wanted to build a tabernacle to Moses, Elias and Christ. But this was the testimony of God.

Matthew 17:5:..and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. [they hit their face] 8: And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

“[Christ told the Pharisees] Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (Jn 5: 39-40)

It is Holy Spirit's witness in the heart, through the preaching of the water of the word, by which he bears witness of the blood of Christ--if we believe it is because God has borne witness in our heart and we have the witness in us.

1 John 5: 7: For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [Christ], and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water [the word], and the blood [Christ crucified]: and these three agree in one. 9: If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10: He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record [the testimony, the witness] that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

We assemble *unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD*. We gather to the Lord's house to hear *God's testimony of his Son* through the preaching of the word. As the Spirit bears witness of Christ in our hearts, we give all thanks and all praise to our triune God in Christ Jesus.

CHRIST'S THRONE OF JUDGMENT

Psalm 122: 5: For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

It is in his house, through the preaching of the gospel, that we behold Christ on his throne of judgment. Each local assembly gathers to Christ's throne each time we assemble to hear the gospel preached. He settles us in peace at his feet.

We behold Christ settled judgment on the cross. We behold God our Father is on his throne of judgment. Christ is on his throne of judgment. He sets up his throne of judgment in the hearts of each of his saints through the preaching of Christ and him crucified.

Isaiah 42:4: He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Through the message of Christ and him crucified, we behold God was on his throne of judgment satisfying his own justice in Christ on the cross for his people. In our hearts, the Spirit of God sets up Christ's throne of judgment. We behold in Christ, God is just. We behold in Christ, God is the Justifier. We behold in Christ, we are justified from all our sins. Knowing the power of Christ to set up his throne in our hearts, we behold Christ on his throne above ruling each of his saints in spirit and ruling all things in providence for us.

Romans 14:4: Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

The Lord said when he has worked this work through his Spirit he makes us be at peace with God in Christ, at peace with our brethren, even to live in peace with our enemies--even as the Lord said it would be.

Isaiah 32: 16 Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. 17: And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. 18: And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

This is why nothing is more important and beneficial in the life of a believer than the assembly of God's saints in public worship. God bears witness in the hearts of each of his saints that his Son alone is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption--Salvation--All and in all. He bears witness

judgment is settled and Christ is ruling all things for us. Thus he compacts us together. Thus he keeps us giving him all thanks and praise for salvation.

Hebrews 10: 23: Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: [what is the chief way we provoke to love and good works?] 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.

Simply by assembling we love and exhort one another. We say to each other that there is nothing else in the world more important than Christ and his gospel.

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 122: 6: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7: Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. 8: For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. 9: Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

God's grace makes us pray for the peace of the church.

Brethren, pray for the peace of God's heavenly holy Jerusalem--his house, his church, his city, for one another--for God has promised "*they shall prosper that love thee.*" But God will have us ask him to make us prosper spiritually in heart. So let us ask God make it so "*peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.*"

We will have peace because Christ our Intercessor is before the Father praying this on our behalf, "*For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. 9: Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.*" Since Christ is our Peace, interceding for peace within his house, we shall have peace!

Amen!