

TOGETHER AGAIN

Psalm 122 —

Pastor Craig Smith • June 7, 2020

Psalm 122: a song of joy when finally gathered as God's people...

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. (Psalm 122:1-3)

🕯 **Note: God calls us to worship** _____ — "I...they...me...us...house of the LORD."

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it... 'Why were you searching for me?' he asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?'" (Luke 2:41-43, 49)

...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)

Why we gather as the church...

- It _____ us in our _____ to God — "That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel." (Psalm 122: 4)
- It _____ us under the _____ of God — "There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David." (Psalm 122:5)

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

- It encourages us to _____ for the _____ of people — "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.' (Psalm 122:6-7)

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. (3 John 2)

- It calls us to _____ the _____ of the church — "For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity." (Psalm 122:8-9)

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

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Icebreaker: Describe your most memorable family vacation/trip.

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*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that
is closely compacted together. (Psalm 122:1-3) – Describe the emotion felt when you
finally arrive at a desirable destination after a long journey.*

🔔 **Note: God calls us to worship "together"** – "I...they...me...us...house of the LORD."

*Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was
twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast
was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in
Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it... 'Why were you searching for me?' he asked.
'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' (Luke 2:41-43, 49)*

*...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy
priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
(1 Peter 2:5)*

Personally, why do you gather with others to worship? What emotion do you feel,
benefit you get, etc. by doing it?

Why we gather as the church...

- It unifies us in our praise to God – "That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel." (Psalm 122: 4) – Are there other groups ("tribes") within Christianity that you may not understand, or cause you frustration? Regardless of the differences does it help to know that you are unified with them under Christ?
- It guides us under the leadership of God – "There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David." (Psalm 122:5)

*Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am
delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household,
which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (1 Timothy
3:14-15) – Other than the Bible and church, where else do you go in order to seek
truth?*

- It encourages us to pray for the needs of people – "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.'" (Psalm 122:6-7)

*Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you,
even as your soul is getting along well. (3 John 2) - The idea of Shalom is an overall
well-being in life. How often do you pray for the well-being or Shalom of others?
Who or what groups (tribes) is/are hard for you to pray Shalom?*

- **It calls us to seek the good of the church** – *“For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.” (Psalm 122:8-9)*

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

What is the best part for you to be with other Christians? Despite our current circumstances, what are some ways you could seek and still serve our church (Christian) community?