

10/1/2017

**Journeying Home:
Prizing the Community of God's People
Psalm 122**

Question: What does this time mean to you? How does your heart respond to the gathering of God's people in order to worship our Lord?

I. Rejoicing in God's People Gathered for Worship (vs.1)

II. Corporate Worship - Providing A Framework for Life (vss. 2-5)

III. A Prayer for Peace and Security for God's People (vss. 6-9)

Point to Ponder: A plant naturally grows, and in a similar way we could say that those who have the Spirit at work in them naturally delight in corporate worship. That being said, we know there are ways for us to encourage plant growth and the same is true in regards to encouraging joy in worship. Allow me to suggest that one means of encouraging joy in our worship is found in **preparation**. Small steps of preparation can help in worship: **1) Prayer** - ask God to prepare your heart, open your ears, engage your mind, loosen your lips, fill you with joy... Better yet, find someone to pray with you before we begin to worship. **2) Ready yourself to encounter God's Word.** We strive to let you know what will be preached on the next week for a reason - our hope is that you will read and consider it before you come. **3) Ready yourself to sing.** Let's be honest people often become frustrated with style of music (contemporary vs. traditional; organ vs. guitar). Yet while natural affinity towards a certain style might be difficult to change - if you concentrate on the words and their meaning then your heart can delight in wondrous truths expressed, if not the style of presentation. **4) Allow for transition** - if you are rushing to make it to worship and yet still arrive late, you will likely find it difficult to let go of the tensions of the morning while you try to catch up with worship in progress. So, leave 10 minutes earlier and have time to transition from the rat race of life to being with God's people gathered in worship.

Next Week we will be looking at **Psalm 123**