



## Lesson 4: Worship

### Psalm 122 (The Message)

- 1-2 When they said, “Let’s go to the house of God,”  
my heart leaped for joy.  
And now we’re here, O Jerusalem,  
inside Jerusalem’s walls!
- 3-5 Jerusalem, well-built city,  
built as a place for worship!  
The city to which the tribes ascend,  
all God’s tribes go up to worship,  
To give thanks to the name of God—  
*this* is what it means to be Israel.  
Thrones for righteous judgment  
are set there, famous David-thrones.
- 6-9 Pray for Jerusalem’s peace!  
Prosperity to all you Jerusalem-lovers!  
Friendly insiders, get along!  
Hostile outsiders, keep your distance!  
For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say it again: live in peace!  
For the sake of the house of our God, God,  
I’ll do my very best for you.

### ***I. An Instant Of The Average***

Did you know that more people are at worship in any given Sunday, for instance, than are at all the football games, or on the golf links, or fishing? Worship is the single most popular act in this country. When we hear the Psalmist say, “*When they said, Let’s go to the house of God; my heart leaped for joy*” we are not listening to phony enthusiasm about worship. It is very typical of most Christians, in most places, at most times. This is an instance of the average.

### ***II. A Framework***

Why do we worship? Why is it a common ground to all Christians all over the world? The Psalm gives us three answers to our questions...

#### A. Worship Gives Us A Workable Structure For Life

The Psalm says, *“Jerusalem, well-built city, built as a place for worship! The city to which the tribes ascend, all God’s tribes go up to worship.”* In Jerusalem everything God said was remembered and celebrated. It was in Jerusalem you encountered the reality that God created you, redeemed you, and provided for you.

We all are different but one. We are different by race, wealth, intelligence, language, gender and so forth and yet as God’s people we are gathered together as one people. We have inner unity that seeks God and shares in the acts of worship.

We need to have a framework so that we can know where we fit because all the parts are there, nothing is left out, everything fits into a workable framework. How do we get the framework, that sense of solid structure, so that we can know where stand and therefore serve the Lord without anxiety? Christians go to worship.

#### B. Worship Nurtures Our Need To Be In A Relationship With God

Worship is the place where we obey the command to praise God! *“To give thanks to the name of God – this is what it means to be Israel.”* This command, to give thanks, is the center of our worship to God. When we praise we are functioning at the center, we are in touch with the basic, core reality of our being.

#### C. Worship Centers Our Attention On The Decisions Of God

Our Psalm describes worship as the place *“thrones for righteous judgement are set...famous David thrones.”* The biblical word of judgement means, “the decisive word by which God straightens things out and puts things right.”

Every time we worship our minds are informed, our memories refreshed with the judgments of God. We hear what God says, what He has decided, and the ways he is working out our salvation.

### **III. Peace & Security**

Does worship on Sunday make any difference for the rest of the week? The final words of Psalm 122 says that it does! Worship does not satisfy your hunger for God – it whets your appetite. Our need for God is not taken care of when we engage in worship – it deepens. It overflows into the whole week. The need we have is expressed in a desire for peace and security. Our everyday needs are changed by the act of worship.