

Jan 22nd 2006: Psalm 122: Joyful Worship

Late last year.....Thursday Bible study.....favourite Psalms.....

A senior lady...122.....Invited her along to church

That lady never misses.....Attendance prize

Never heard her complain.....Because she is not here for herself alone

But to worship God with His people

And she is glad.....She rejoices.....To be able to do so

I have been absent for two Sundays.....In one sense I have missed....

But in a much greater sense I haven't.....**BECAUSE** worshipped elsewhere

On the 1st in Malaysia

Last Sunday AOG Kambalda

Same God I worshipped.....same joy of doing so amongst God's people

I knowcan tend to be picky at some church services

Have even gone with the thought in mind.....I'm not going to like this:::& I'm aware

IF I let it....It's something that steals from my heart the joy of worship

I'm not saying that we shouldn't be alert....things.....can be done better

But that we should discipline our hearts.....to approach worship of.....with...

With the same joy....that the Psalmist expressed in Ps 122...when he said...v1...

I want to remind your heart.....and my.....How good it is to be here todaybecause at times I think.....we tend to forget

- For the Psalmist.....the situation was diff to ours

He speaks as a Pilgrim.....sought to visit the Temple in.....3 times a year

But it was still to a place of meeting with God...went

&

In this Psalm he pictures himself.....Waiting at a gathering point....for his friends...
4 He knows that they will eagerly invite him to join them as.....
And he knows that he will rejoice greatly with them as they go to worship together

He will rejoice greatly

Because he is one of the people of God.....and he is going to the Temple
The place where....as v4 says.....

People of different tribes....same as.....p of diff tribes and races today

They didn't naturally get on too well

Yet the psalmist knew from exp.....that when together they worshipped.....

2 Sundays ago.....I worshipped.....people in Malaysia.....**YET** we were one

And the incredible thing.....is that we here are so diff.....

Yet because of our relationship with God.....we gather as brothers and sisters

AND the Psalmist also saw the Temple....this centre of the city of Jerusalem

As the place where the laws and statutes of God were proclaimed.....

Where God's judgment could be heard

Where he could go.....and learn from the most High.....

The best way to live.....The best and most pleasing way to worship.....

And the most amazing thing that happens for us....when we gather to worship

Is that God speaks to us of Himself....of His ways.....directions and commands

He speaks to us words of hope....of love...of encouragement...of joy

He speaks in many different ways.....through many different vehicles

**He speaks to the whole body.....and he whispers to individuals
He convicts...challenges.....restores**

**Hebrews 1:1-2.....and this is an ongoing miracle
Aren't you glad you are here today...to hear God's word to you ???**

But as well as hearing.....

--One of the things....that makes me rejoice over..
**Is the opportunity it gives.....to express my love.....My thanks to God
My personal commitment to Him**

I sing the songs...that put into words.....the feelings that live within me

We worship a most wonderful God.....

Awe inspiring Creator.....Powerful sustainer.....**Yet He loves and cares for each**

We often sing this song together.....51.....

**There is a sense too....that every Sunday is a combined Mothers Day..Fathers Day
For God**

You know how it is on a normal Mothers Day

The whole Family finds the time...to meet with Mum.....To say thanks....
And to say we love you

And each Sunday God's Family gathers...to say ...we love you.....Thank you
And what joy there is in doing that

And you know something even more wonderful

It is this joy that we find in worship....that God uses to draw others into His family

*(Pua Kuan.....and a smile lit up and transformed her face
And I thought to myself.....If I was not a Xtian....and saw the joy....worship
I would want that for myself)*

Are you glad to be here this morning....Not just because your friends.....
Or because you enjoy the way things are done

But because you are here to worship your Heavenly Father ??

**And is your joy so evident.....that those who are outside family...
Will be attracted to the One you worship ??????**