

**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> in Malaysia**

**Last Sunday AOG Kambalda**

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

**I know .....can 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 today ....because 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 ??????**