

## Come and Worship

“. . . How lovely [is] Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young—[Even] Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God. Blessed [are] those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. Selah Blessed [is] the man whose strength [is] in You, Whose heart [is] set on pilgrimage. [As they] pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; [Each one] appears before God in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. For a day in Your courts [is] better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God [is] a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good [thing] will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, Blessed [is] the man who trusts in You!” (Psalms 84:1-12 NKJV)

We have above one of the sweetest psalms written. It does not carry David’s name, but it does reflect his spirit whether he wrote it or not. David was a man well acquainted with pain and sorrow, and the opportunities he had to come to the tabernacle of God refreshed him.

There is an image here called the Valley of Baca, or weeping. It signifies a place where the people find their sorrows turned into blessings. Blessed is the man whose heart is set on pilgrimage. One day in God’s courts is better than a thousand.

Is this your testimony? Are you able to come and worship the Lord? Surely, there are things in every church that may be distractions to worship. Therefore, you need to set your heart to worship before you ever arrive. Your purpose for attending will greatly affect your ability to worship.

I have heard people say, “I just don’t get anything out of the service” of this church or that church. I wonder what they are expecting to get. If they hope to be entertained, I am not surprised. There are better places for entertainment. If they mean they don’t sense the presence of God, then they would do well to ask themselves a couple of questions.

First, is the truth being proclaimed? Obviously, if truth is not being taught, then no corporate worship will happen as “God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24 NKJV).

Second, are you predisposed to worship? “For to be carnally minded [is] death, but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:6-8 NKJV).

So ask yourself, “Am I focused on carnal things or spiritual things?” Are you frustrated because the music minister keeps doing that same old hymn? Does the preacher take too long to deliver the message? Are these carnal thoughts?

It’s true that a preacher may deliver a long and confusing sermon. The music man might even be a little flat. However, these things don’t dictate your worship of God. Worship means to ascribe worth to

something or someone. You may do that no matter what is happening around you. The secret is setting your heart to worship. Don't go to get something, but go to give to God. I really believe that if you go with that attitude, you will get something from God. "Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?' but He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" (James 4:5-6 NKJV)