

Psalm 100

To the House of the Lord

Privately prepared ...

- I. Fellowship of the Saints
 - A. Worshipful Communion
 - B. Edifying Atmosphere
- II. Concerted Prayer
 - A. Furnace of Renewal
 - B. Heartfelt Agreement
- III. Corporate Worship
 - A. Universal Command
 - B. Covenantal Privilege
 - C. True Delight

... for public praise.

Children, Listen ...

1. What makes relationships between Christians so special?
2. It is important to pray alone, but why is it also important to pray along with others?
3. What is the main purpose of worship?
4. Worship services are something that God's people should truly enjoy. Sadly, sometimes we don't. What will help you to enjoy Sunday worship services?

Preaching to the Choir?

Back in the mid 80's I used to watch a prominent Southern Baptist pastor of a large church in Atlanta on a fairly regular basis. The backdrop of his telecast was a massive choir. It fascinated me that I never saw one of the singers do the droopy-eye head-bobbing thing (always good for a laugh). Granted Charles Stanley was an especially engaging preacher. I would imagine that they were not looking at the back of his head the whole time, but at a monitor facing them from the rear of the church. What I always wanted to see was Dr. Stanley turn around and literally preach to the choir! Choirs need preaching too. I realize preaching about corporate worship to people who are, well, gathered for corporate worship, may seem like preaching to the choir, but choirs need preaching too. We need to be reminded that while it is a command for people to worship God it is a special privilege of the saints of God in Christ to gather together as a congregation faithfully to worship Him. But it is to be a duty that is a delight. Do you rejoice at the prospect of "going to the house of the Lord" with God's people? Is it a joyful experience when you participate? Do you truly participate? May the Lord grant you the blessing of a God glorifying, soul satisfying corporate worship experience Sunday after Sunday, and may you come with a well- prepared soul and a sanctified attitude that is conducive to genuine worship.

Let's also remember that the communion of saints is more than just gathering for services on Sundays. It has to do with our being bound to Christ and the bound to each other through His graces given by the Holy Spirit. May that truth sweeten all our gatherings, transforming every occasion into true fellowship. In addition, let's take advantage of opportunities for corporate prayer. There is power in prayer and there is a special significance when God's people agree before His throne of grace in prayers of praise, thanks, confession, intercession and petition.