

Theme: There is a great joy that comes from gathering with God's people to worship Him together.

I. Intro – Great To Be Together Again!

- A. Three weeks with no meeting!
- B. Unprecedented in the life of BRCC
- C. Many people expressed missing one another
- D. Many expressed missing worshipping together
- E. This is expressed in the text - why joy in gathering?

II. The Context of the Psalm

- A. Pilgrimage to Jerusalem
 - 1. Songs of Ascent (v1; describe)
 - 2. Pilgrimage (v1, 4)
 - 3. House of Lord - Temple (v1, 9) - inclusio
 - 4. Jerusalem (v2,3, 6)
 - 5. Purpose - worship (v4)
- B. NT application: gathering with the church to worship
 - 1. Church is Temple (1Co 3:16; Eph 2:21-22)
 - 2. Church is Jerusalem (Heb 12:22-23; Rev 3:12)
 - 3. Church gathered with heavenly Church as well

III. Why Corporate Worship Produces Joy

- A. God commands us to gather! (v4; Heb 10:24-25)

- B. God meets with us when we gather (Mat 18:20)
- C. Protection as we gather (vv 3, 6-7; Ecc 4:12)
- D. God speaks to us by Word & gifts
 - 1. Eph 4:11-12; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 4:2; 1 Cor 14:26
- E. God meets us in the sacraments (1 Cor 10:16-17)
- F. God blesses as we gather in unity (Psa 133:1, 3) - ascent

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Rejoice in worshipping together again!
- B. Remember this at later times
 - 1. We tend to forget true blessings
 - 2. Returning from overseas - grateful but fades
 - 3. Remember goodness, joy of corporate worship
- C. Joy at the Table - meeting Christ
- D. After Communion - greet one another in joy

The Joy of Corporate Worship

Psalm 122:1
Psalm 133
February 21, 2010
Communion
Numbers 6:24-26

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:21-22

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousand++s upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, Hebrews 12:22-23

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Rev 3:12

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up Eph4:11-12

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. 1 Cor 14:26

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ... It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Psalm 133:1, 3