

Sermon Series: Intentional Disciples –Purposeful Worship–Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—1/1/2006

Title: Passion for Worship

Text: Psalm 122: 1-9

Intro.: *Ills.: the Colts playoff game next week—why do people have such passion to attend or see it?*

Theme: Worship is more than an event we attend. It is the place in which we come together as God's people to meet Him.

The "Why" of worship—do you have a passion to be here?

- Passion to imitate God
 1. Imitation of God is one of the highest forms of worship
 - a. Children imitate their parents because of love, respect, security
 - b. *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Ephes. 5:1-2*
 - c. **Ills.:** "If your soul has no Sunday, it becomes an orphan." Physician, missionary Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
 2. Imitating/worshiping God by resting ourselves in worship with him on the first day of the week
 - a. **Print and read Exodus 20: 8-11**
 - b. Even David realized that "this command"(**print and read vs. 4**) was God deserved and beneficial to us
 - c. *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. Hebrews 13:15*
- Passion to be in God's House
 1. **Ills.: the cost of lunch with Warren Buffett**
 2. **Finding an excuse** to be in God's house
 - a. **Ills.: Pick an excuse**
 - b. *"I was glad when they said to me, "Let's go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122: 1*
 3. **Finding joy** in God's house
 - a. In a world smudged with the ugliness of sin, it is a refuge (sanctuary) to come to place to view a thing of beauty
 - b. *One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. Ps 27: 4*

The "Who" of worship—who are we here for?

- Passionate for it to be about **GOD**
 1. Because He is our Creator *Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Ps 95: 6*
 2. Because He is our Savior *The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of my salvation, Ps 18:46*
- Passionate for it to be **for OTHERS**
 1. **Print and read verses 6-9**
 2. The ministry of Body-worship
 - a. Make it our primary mission not to leave this worship building without having share Christ's peace w/another
 - b. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. . .and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col.3: 16*
- Passionate for it to be **for MYSELF**
 1. Many of us, from time to time, have come to worship for selfish motives (**obligation, entertainment, socializing**)
 2. But God tells us to come **to hear**
 - a. *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. Romans 10:17*
 3. Because it is good to hear how great our God is
 - a. **Ills.: Listening to when others tell us how good/great our spouse or child is – developing an outside view**
 4. But God tells us to come **to be set free**
 - a. Are you passionate about being freed from guilt, fear, meaningless living, broken relationships, etc. ?
 - b. **Ills.: Church Attenders live longer**
 - c. *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John*

8: 31-32

- d. Instead of hearing God's judgment for our obvious sins we hear his verdict of "**not guilty**" in Jesus (*The court of justice sits there. It consists of princes who are David's descendants vs. 5*)

Church Attenders live longer

Church attendance nourishes and strengthens the spiritual life, but recent research has also shown other benefits. People who regularly attend church live longer. In studying the relationship between religion and health, researchers came upon a strong and persuasive finding: Those who did not attend church lived an average of 75 years; less than weekly attendance, lived 80 years; once a week 82 years; and those who attended church more than once a week lived an average of 83 years. Research indicates a person attending church weekly is less likely to become depressed, and more likely to exercise, quit smoking, and stop **drinking**. **Josh Ulick, "Why Religion Helps," Newsweek, (11-10-03), p.47; submitted by David Slagle, Wilmore, Kentu**

Pick an excuse

One Sunday morning, two men are out in a boat, fishing. After several hours on the lake without catching a single fish, one of the men says to his friend, "You know, we probably should have stayed home and gone to church this morning." The other man says, "Well, I could have stayed home, but I couldn't have gone to church." "Why's that?" asks his friend. "My wife is sick," the fisherman answers. **Greg Huffer, Lebanon, Indiana**

Albert Schweitzer on Sabbath

"If your soul has no Sunday, it becomes an orphan." Physician, missionary Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) Nancy Gibbs, "And on the Seventh Day We Rested" Time magazine (8-2-04); submitted by Ted De Hass, Bedford, Iowa

The Cost of lunch with Warren Buffett

Warren Buffett is one of the greatest investors in our day, and he is also the second richest man in the world, with an estimated worth of \$44 billion. Buffett is so famous that a special edition of the Monopoly board game features him and his companies. In June 2005, Buffett decided to help raise money for his charitable foundation by offering an online auction for someone to have lunch with him. The winning bid was \$351,100—the price of access. Do we recognize the value of the wisdom of God's Word, and our access to the eternal God in prayer and worship?" **eBay Bidder to Pay \$351,100 for Buffett Lunch," www.msnbc.msn.com, accessed 7-02-05; submitted by Aaron Goerner, Utica, New York**

Psalm 122:1-9

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let's go to the house of the Lord."

²Our feet are standing inside your gates, Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built to be a city where the people are united.

⁴All of the Lord's tribes go to that city because it is a law in Israel to offer praise to the name of the Lord.

⁵The court of justice sits there. It consists of princes who are David's descendants.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you prosper.

⁷May there be peace inside your walls and prosperity in your palaces."

⁸For the sake of my relatives and friends, let me say, "May it go well for you!"

⁹For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek what is good for you. [GW]

Exodus 20:8-11

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.