

6

The Church

Memorization Verse: Psalm 122:1

“I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’.”

The church is made up of all true Christians everywhere – and it includes many thousands of local churches. God instituted these local churches to help Christians grow spiritually. You will have fellowship with other believers there – including opportunities to serve and encourage them. You will receive “training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16) as God’s Word is preached and taught in the local church.

Scripture teaches us to seek out this kind of fellowship: “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 10:25).

EXPLORING Psalm 122:1

What is a good attitude to have in a worship service?

What do you think made David glad as he considered going to the house of the Lord?

“I REJOICED”

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. How did the early Christians respond to the nurture and fellowship they enjoyed?

2. Why could Paul say in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 that he was joyful about the growth of the local church at Thessalonica?

3. In 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, Paul again said the Thessalonian Christians made him joyful. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and explain the reason for Paul's joy.

"LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"

4. What did Jesus promise in Matthew 18:19-20 to those who gather in his name? Be mindful of the context of this verse.

5. Paul explained one of the church's main purposes in Ephesians 4:11-12. Write out these verses in your own words.

6. Read Ephesians 4:13-15. What will be the result in our lives when the church's ministry follows the pattern described in Ephesians 4:11-12?

7. According to Ephesians 4:11-15, who in addition to the pastor is responsible for the growth of Christians in a local congregation?

According to Ephesians 4:15-16 how is the body of Christ built up?

8. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, how did Paul say we should regard our Christian leaders?

How should we follow the example of our spiritual leaders according to Hebrews 13:7?

9. Read Colossians 1:13-20. Who is the head of the church?

How did Paul describe the church in Colossians 1:18?

10. What is the result of hearing God's Word proclaimed according to Romans 10:17?

11. Read Romans 12:3-16. Summarize what this passage teaches about relationships within the body of Christ.

12. What did Paul long for among the Christians at Rome according to Romans 15:5-6?

13. What did Jesus especially pray for all believers in John 17:20-23?

APPLYING PSALM 122:1

Prayerfully review this study, especially the Scripture passages and ideas which were most helpful to you personally. Write a short paragraph on why the church is important to your spiritual growth.

Personal Notes:
