

# What Should I Bring to Church?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Psalm 100:1-5
- B. What should I bring to church?
  1. People bring all kinds of things to church: snacks, candy, and toys to entertain the kids. A trip to a basement classroom would have a more lasting effect.
  2. I have even seen people read novels, balance their checkbook, clip and file nails, text, surf the net, etc. while the sermon is being preached.
  3. Others more conscientious bring their Bibles, class books, offering
- C. Five reasons to take your Bible to church:
  1. It enables you to examine what the preacher is saying (Acts 17:11).
  2. It shows that the Bible is important to you, thus glorifying God
  3. It's a positive example to your neighbors, fellow disciples, and children.
  4. It facilitates participation in the services
  5. It allows you to highlight things that will be helpful in future studies.
- D. While focusing on the outer man, we overlook the inner man

## I. BRING THE RIGHT SPIRIT

- A. Vs. 1 - A shouting, singing spirit
  1. Shouting speaks to the enthusiasm we should feel about coming to worship - Psalm 95:1, 98:4
  2. Singing speaks to the contemplative frame of mind we should cultivate in worship - Psalm 40:1-3
- B. Vs. 2 - A serving spirit - 1Cor. 6:20
  1. And do so cheerfully - Psalm 122:1; Zech. 8:21

## II. BRING THE RIGHT SUBMISSION

- A. Vs. 3 - Submit to the person of God - Ez. 34:30-31
  1. The reason some people have trouble giving, getting to church services, or serving God as they should is that they have a different God than the God of the Bible. They worship "Grandpa" God
- B. Submit to the purpose of God - We are reminded that we are what we are because He made us.
  1. 1Cor. 15:10; John 15:5
  2. He saved us, and the only honorable response to that is to serve Him unreservedly - Eph. 2:10
- C. Submit to the promise of God
  1. Psalm 23 is less about the promises of God and more about how we should react to them.
    - a. Reciting the promises of God does little good until we choose to change our thinking in response to them.
  2. Rom. 8:28-32 is just a scripture reading until we adjust our lives in reaction to His promises

### III. BRING THE RIGHT SACRIFICE

#### A. Vs. 4-5

1. In the Tabernacle and Temple days, the priest must not enter the presence of the Lord without the right sacrifice. To do so meant death
  - a. Heb. 9:7
2. We are given an invitation to come into the presence of the King. This is not a casual image. Consider the court of Ahasuerus:
  - a. Mordecai risked his life coming into his court without a smile
  - b. Esther risked her life coming uninvited
  - c. One never turned his back to the king, even when leaving
  - d. Bow to the king (or prostrate) every few steps; offer up declarations of praise or loyalty every few steps
  - e. Visiting dignitaries often brought their own choirs with them
3. We are told to enter into His gates. Gates are for defense and are usually closed to all outsiders. However, through the blood of Jesus, we are no longer the enemies of God (Rom. 8:7), but children of the King (Rom. 8:16-17; 1John 3:1-3).
4. The Psalmist gives three reasons for praising His Name:
  - a. For His goodness - "good, pleasant, beautiful, delightful, glad, joyful, precious, correct and righteous" Everything God does is an expression of His goodness.
  - b. For His mercy - Mercy is defined as "not getting what you deserve." If I got what was coming to me, I would go to perdition, and so would you. He holds back His wrath from off my life. Why? Because 2,000 years ago God's Son, Jesus, took my place on a Roman cross.
    - 1) His mercy will never be exhausted - Lam. 3:22-23.
  - c. For His truth - While the years pile up and the world around us changes incessantly, not a single promise of God changes by one jot or tittle
    - 1) God cannot lie - Heb. 6:18
    - 2) What He promised will be as good in 10,000 years as it was the moment He promised it

#### Conclusion:

- A. What did you bring with you this morning?
  1. "Got my Bible, class book, contribution, and dressed up in my Sunday go to meeting clothes"
- B. What about the important things?
  1. Did you bring a spirit of awe and humility?
  2. Did you bring complete subjection to Almighty, All-wise God?
  3. Did you bring yourself as a living sacrifice to the One who gave you your life twice?