

PUBLIC WORSHIP TO BE PREFERRED BEFORE PRIVATE

***You may want to print this out put it beside your alarm clock for
Sunday mornings / Sunday evenings / Thursday evenings!***

**Sermon on Psalm 87:2
David Clarkson (1622 – 1686)**

- 1. The Lord is more glorified by public worship than private.**
God is glorified by us when we acknowledge that He is glorious, and He is most glorified when this acknowledgement is most public.
- 2. There is more of the Lord's presence in public worship than in private.** He is present with his people in the use of public worship in a special way: more effectually, constantly, and intimately.
- 3. God manifests himself more clearly in public worship than in private.** For example, in Revelation, Christ is manifested "in the midst of the churches."
- 4. There is more spiritual advantage in the use of public worship.** Whatever spiritual benefit is to be found in private duties, that, and much more may be expected from public worship when rightly used.
- 5. Public worship is more edifying than private.**
In private you provide for your own good, but in public you do good both to yourselves and others.
- 6. Public worship is a better security against apostasy than private.** He who lacks or reject public worship, whatever private means he enjoy, is in danger of apostasy.
- 7. The Lord works his greatest works in public worship.** Conversion, regeneration, etc., are usually accomplished through public means.
- 8. Public worship is the nearest resemblance of heaven.** In the Bible's depictions of heaven, there is nothing done in private, nothing in secret; all the worship of that glorious company is public.
- 9. The most renowned servants of God have preferred public worship before private.** The Lord did not withdraw from public ordinances, though they were corrupt. Public worship was more precious to the apostles than their safety, liberty, and lives.
- 10. Public worship is the best means for procuring the greatest mercies, and preventing and removing the greatest judgments.**
- 11. The precious blood of Christ is most interested in public worship.** Private worship was required of, and performed by Adam and his posterity, even in a sinless state, but the public preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments have a necessary dependence on the death of Christ.
- 12. The promises of God are given more to public worship than to private.** There are more promises to public than to private worship, and even the promises that seem to be made to private duties are applicable and more powerful for public worship.