

Robo Blessing

Psalm 122



1

Scripture

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1 NIV)

Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. (Psalm 122:2-3 NIV)

That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel. (Psalm 122:4 NIV)



2

Scripture

There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David. (Psalm 122:5 NIV)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. (Psalm 122:6 NIV)

May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels. (Psalm 122:7 NIV)



3

Scripture

For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." (Psalm 122:8 NIV)

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity. (Psalm 122:9 NIV)



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Introduction

Robots have been around for a very long while. At least the concept of robots.

The ancient **Greeks** and **Egyptians** had ideas of artificial companions, servants and soldiers, who would serve them particularly in the afterlife.



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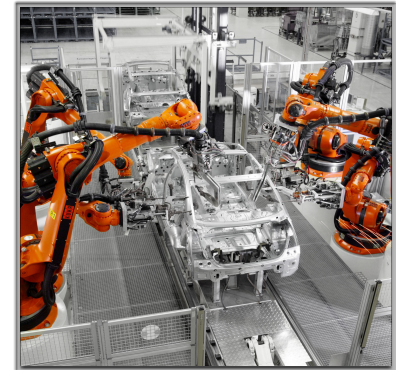
Introduction

In recent history, **robots** have also captured the imagination of us mortals.

Slowly, **mechanical servants** have become a part of our mundane lives.

Machines wash our clothes and dishes with little human interaction.

Robots have been programmed to work in factories and have replaced the human worker on many assembly lines.



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Introduction

In the 1950s, **humanoid robots** usually looked like **tin men** and had a funnel or a bowl on their heads.

The Star Wars franchise brought to the screen the most lovable robots of all time: **R2-D2** and **C-3PO**.



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Introduction

RoboCop (1987, 2014) generated debate as to the extent that robots could replace humans in vital roles.

Thirty years after the 1987 movie, **robocops** are patrolling the streets in Dubai.



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Introduction

Millions of **non-humanoid robots** are vacuuming carpets in households around the world.

In fact, **robo lawn mowers** are now all the rage.

However, for some reason, there has been a rash of missing pet reports.

Authorities are not sure if there is a connection.



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BlessU-2

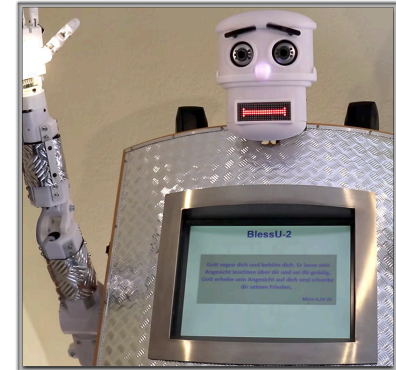
Today, in Germany, a **robot** has been developed to offer blessings to congregants. It's called **BlessU-2**.

It's made from the body of an **ATM machine**. It's activated by a touch screen on its chest.

It gives you the option of hearing your blessing in a male or female voice.

It asks you the language you'd like to hear — German, English, French, Spanish or Polish.

Then, **BlessU-2** raises its robot arms and pronounces a **blessing**.



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Other Robo Priest

Another robot, **SanTO** listens to confession, recites Bible verses and has been used successfully in **nursing homes** "to provide comfort and assistance to the elderly".

Robots are not unique to **Christianity**.

In Beijing, **Xian'er** is a robot that chants mantras and dispenses Buddhist wisdom to temple worshippers.

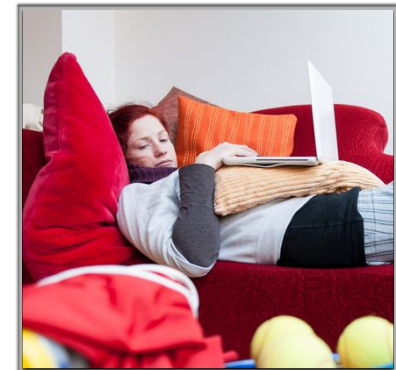
Also, in Asia, robots how officiate weddings.



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Blessings R Us!

Unless a robot is developed that could hop in a self-driving car and make house calls, you are never going to receive a **robot blessing** if you stay home.

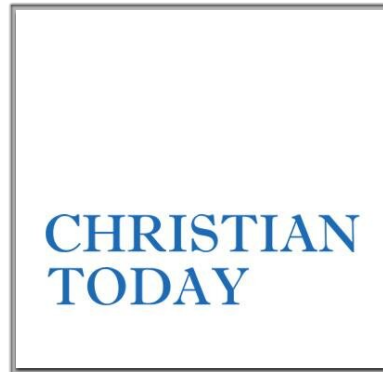


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Blessings R Us!

Studies have repeatedly underscored the **value** of the physical, emotional and psychological **health** of **churchgoers** compared to **non-churchgoers**.

Christianity Today reported earlier this year that “a new study by Pew Research has found that **people** who practice a religion are happier and more engaged in their **communities** than the rest of the population.”



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Blessings R Us!

According to the Desiring God website there are five reasons why we should go to church. They are [...]

To **remind** each other of who we really are in Christ.

We're chosen of God by grace and are **special** to Him.

In fact, we are his children and **God** will move heaven and earth to help us in times of need.

We are also the **light of the world**, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. [See Matthew 5:14]

In other words, we are a **living revelation** of what can be done through those who serve God and so build faith in Jesus Christ.

And, according to the Apostle Paul, the Church of Jesus Christ is the **pillar and foundation of truth!** (1 Tim. 3:15 NIV)

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

To remind us that **trials** are only temporal and often bear much fruit.

*According to the **Apostle James**, **trials** should be looked at with **joy** as they exercise our faith, which helps us to grow and be mature. (James 1:2-5)*

*The **Apostle Peter** says the same kind of thing when he says that **trials** come to refine our faith and prove that it is genuine. (1 Peter 1:6-7)*

*The **Apostle Paul** says, I consider that our **present sufferings** are not worth comparing with the **glory** that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18 NIV)*

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

*Nevertheless, God will not allow us to be **tested** beyond what we can bear and will in fact, give us **strength** to hold up under it. (1 Cor. 10:13)*

In fact, we all go through **trials** and **temptation**, and so are not alone and should **encourage** each other to remain steadfast in the faith.

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

To encourage **growth** and fight **stagnation**.

To tell the truth, we are all blind to our own blindness, and we need the perspective of others to **help** us along the way.

Moreover, we are particularly prone to minimize our own faults and focus on other. (Matthew 7:3-5)

Fact is that a **close-nit community** that lovingly urges us toward maturity **helps** the whole body of Christ. [See Ephesian 4:13-24]

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

To spend time with our **real family**.

The body of Christ is a family with a **heavenly father**.

It is also a **family** with **spiritual** fathers and sons, mothers and daughters.

Just like a loving and nurturing **family** the **church of Jesus Christ** is a place where the needs of each member finds help.

So we come to church to be a part of a **spiritual family** that cares for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of **each member** and do so with a spirit of generosity and love, we have found a **good thing!**

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

To remind us of our **living hope**.

Jesus rose from the dead, just as he **promised**—assuring for us our **death** is not the end.

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ** died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to **Peter**, and then to the Twelve. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5 NIV)*

*After that, he appeared to more than **five hundred** of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to **James**, then to all the **apostles**, and last of all he appeared to **me** also, as to one abnormally born. (1 Corinthians 15:6-8 NIV)*

*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20 NIV)*

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

So then, **Jesus is coming back for us**.

*In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I am going there to prepare a place for you**. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:2-3 NIV)*

*"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back** in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11 NIV)*

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Blessings R Us!

Five reasons why to go to church. [Continued]

As Christians we have a **“blessed hope”** the resurrection of the dead.

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead** in Christ will rise first. After that, **we** who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. **And so we will be with the Lord forever.*** (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 NIV)

Therefore **encourage** each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:18 NIV)

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Blessings R Us!

However, in lieu of all these important points, I feel one of the most important reasons to come together as a church is to be in **God’s presence**.

Jesus said, *“For where **two or three** come together in my name, **there am I** with them.”* (Matthew 18:20 NIV)

In other words, the coming together of two or three Christians brings about a **transformation** from something that is ordinary to something that is **special** and is holy.

*As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — you also, like **living stones**, are being built into a **spiritual house** to be a **holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 2:4-5 NIV)

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Blessings R Us!

*Don’t you know that **you [all] yourselves** are **God’s temple** and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you [all] are that temple.* (1 Corinthians 3:16–17 NIV)

*For **we [all]** are **the temple** of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”* (2 Corinthians 6:16 NIV)

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Blessings R Us!

*“Therefore **come out** from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”* (2 Corinthians 6:17–18 NIV)

So what happens in a church that keeps itself from being **polluted** with the spirit that is in the world?

*When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and **the power** of our Lord Jesus is present, [...]* (1 Corinthians 5:4 NIV)

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Summary

When the **saints of God** come together in the name of the Lord there is something that happens that is **very special**.

In the Old Testament, God's **shekinah glory** rested over the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies in the Temple.

Today, **God's presence** dwells in the midst of His people—even when two or three come together in Jesus' name.

Whether we realize it or not, when the saints come together they are erecting a **spiritual building** that houses God's shekinah glory today.

The **place** where God's **power** and **grace** reside.

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Conclusion

So then, let us be **wise** in how we live in light of this **revelation**.

Since we come to meet a holy God, let us be a **holy people**.

If we do, we have this **promise**. As God has said, [...]

"I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." (2 Corinthians 6:16 NIV)

*"I will be a **Father** to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."* (2 Corinthians 6:17–18 NIV)

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Conclusion

So why should we be glad when someone says, *"Let us go to the house of the LORD"*?

Because this is where **God's** presence and power resides!

This is why we at Ekklesia strive to become a **biblical functioning community** of believers and who are holy and true—valuing God's presence, power, and grace!

AMEN!



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