

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 10/29/23

Sermon: Ted Rastatter/Real Worship

Text: Hebrews 10:19-25 (plus Ps 84:1-2 and Ps 126:1-3)

Notes/Questions: Jerry Shiver

Last week Ted asked the question “What can we do to please God?” The Bible’s answer is that there is nothing we can do to please God by our own doing and the reason the Gospel is such good news is because in Jesus Christ, God himself has done everything that God has required. Referencing Heb 10:18, we no longer have anything to pay to God (Jesus paid it all)! Ted points out that the first ten chapters of Hebrews describes the many facets of Jesus as Son of God, higher than angels, the better Moses, High Priest, covenant, temple, and blood sacrifice -once and for all! As a result, we are free now to worship God and delight in who he is and what he has done for us. Ted uses this week’s scriptures to expand on the meaning of real worship and enjoy God in true relationship.

In his message, Ted posed several questions. Take a moment to consider these as you work through these.

How do you know if you really love something? Is your worship true and from the heart in such a way that it makes God smile? What does it look (feel (my add) like when we are truly enjoying God?

What is real and genuine worship according to today’s text?

From these scriptures, Ted points out that real worship does three things:

- Draws near
- Holds fast
- Stirs Up

Questions:

1. Read Heb 10:22 then Isa 1:13-17, Matt 15:8, Ps 51:15-17. Ted identifies three things from verse 22 that will help us to enjoy real worship by drawing nearer to God. The first is foundational – the condition of our heart. Discuss the difference of worshiping in a state of proximity verses presence, hypocrisy verses honesty, duty verses gladness of heart. Ted challenges us to examine our hearts so when we go to worship, it is in a posture of a true heart or one that is genuinely honest. Share thoughts on how to overcome the noise of our flesh and

the world to better accomplish this. Take a moment to discuss what forms worship can or may take in everyday life (check out Ps 34:1, 113:3 and 104:33).

2. The second thing identified in verse 22 that will help draw us to God is having a full assurance or full confidence in our faith in Christ. Ted used our parking lot and a sinkhole for a worldly example of faith. Read Heb 11:1, 6, 2 Cor 4:18, Heb Eph 2:8. Take a moment to discuss spiritual faith. What life experience can you share that demonstrates Christ is sufficient in the words he spoke “that it is finished” can never be broken. Ted said for himself, Christ keeps proving his reliability and his sufficiency, even when my heart is completely unreliable and insufficient. Have you found him reliable, unchanging, how? Sometimes we can find ourselves cold towards God, lacking emotion, but Jesus is not cold towards us. Read Heb 4:15-16, 7:25, and 10:19-20. As believers, we often talk about our relationship with Jesus. In light of these verses discuss Jesus’ relationship towards us.

3. The third thing within verse 22 identifies when drawing near to God is there will be an outward demonstration in response to the Gospel. Ted points out there will be an inward change resulting in an outward demonstration of worship. A heart sprinkled clean leads to bodies washed with pure water or baptism. Ted said “In response to the gospel real worship never stays private. If we are drawing near to God, it will be drawn out of us in some way for people to see.” Read Mat 5 14-16, 1 Cor 12:4-7 and Eph 2:10 and share when you’ve seen, experienced or witnessed this in action.

4. Verse 23 reminds us that real worship means holding fast without wavering, to the hope we declare in Christ’s promise. Ted points out that by our new nature, we are worshipers in exile (sojourners) who live in-between now and eternity. That means, to be a Christian is to be a people who are not going to get everything we want right here and now in this life. Ted highlighted two key parts to “holding fast”. One is “missional”, showing others the goodness of God and “holding onto our confession” which means never wavering from the basic truths of the Christian life, the Gospel of Jesus Christ that brings hope, abundant and eternal life. Discuss the key points contained within “holding fast” and the meaning of “holding onto our confession”. What challenges you most, what strengthens your relationship with Christ, with other believers, with unbelievers? Supporting verses: Jn 3:16, 10-28, 14:6, Heb 11:24-26, Phil 3:20-21, 2 Cor 4:17.

6. Finally, Ted explains that verses 24 and 25 contain the third action supporting real worship is importance of being “stirred up” or “spurred on”. The author of Hebrews cautions against not meeting as some have. Why is fellowship key to a healthy Christian life? Do current planned FRBC gatherings (Sunday Gatherings, Community Groups, Bible Studies, special events) provide you opportunity to grow in Christ through fellowship? How can we individually, and as a body, encourage or motivate (stir) each other to better serve him and other believers (or those seeking to know him)? Supporting verses Matt 5:14-16, 1 Jn 1:3,7, Acts 2:42, Col 3:16, Jn 13:1,

Praise to you Pastor Ted! While talking on “holding onto our confession” Pastor stated the following (Ohio Issue 1):

“Holding onto our confession means that we must speak truth to power when we're asked to vote on issues of tiny image bears being killed in their mother's wombs. Issue two, (I've never talked about politics from the pulpit in my whole life) this isn't political, it's theological, that's the problem. What we're being asked to vote on next week was a theological issue long before it was politicized and our confession demands that if we are to worship God rightly, we have to boldly say that any vote that is cast in support of abortion rights is a vote that is disobedient to scripture and adverse to the gospel. In the heart of God, that came into the world to give his life and not take ours.” Amen Brother!