



gracefellowship

Series: Stand Alone
Date: July 30, 2023

Title: Why We Worship
Passage: Psalm 73

Scripture: Psalm 73

Asaph was one of Israel's prominent worship leaders. When the Ark of God was returned from the Philistines during the tenure of King David, David ordained worship leaders to make sure the people knew how to draw close to God when they came to the tabernacle for corporate worship.

This morning we want to discuss one thing together: Why We Worship. And I want to do that by attaching this message to the things we have been talking about all month in our Summer Shorts series. Throughout the month we have discussed our relationship to God and God's role in the world when we look around and see violence and injustice and oppression and evil.

Asaph, as a worship leader for God's people is going to be very honest about his feelings about living in a world where evil people seem to have the upper hand. But then he is going to give us perspective about Who God is and why we worship Him.

:: Psalm 73

A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.**
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.**
- ³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**
- ⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.^[a]**
- ⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.**
- ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.**

**7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity^[b];
their evil imaginations have no limits.**

**8 They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.**

**9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.**

**10 Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.^[c]**

**11 They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"**

**12 This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.**

**13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.**

**14 All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.**

**15 If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.**

**16 When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply**

**17 till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.**

**18 Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.**

**19 How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!**

**20 They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.**

**21 When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,**

**22 I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.**

**23 Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.**

**24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.**

**25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.**

**26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.**

**27 Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.**
**28 But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.**

Overview of Psalm 73

Why do we worship?

Biblical worship always puts the focus on God, exalting Him in all circumstances.

No matter what we are facing in life, we find answers when we put our focus on God. Here's the truth- you were created and designed to worship. But not everything is worthy of your worship. That's where idols come in to play. In the absence of God, we will worship something.

- money
- science
- popularity
- sports / entertainment
- relationships

Worship is about prioritizing worth. No one has greater worth than God. He alone is worthy of worship.

We worship all day every day. It's a misnomer to think that worship is what we do when we sing.

Louie Giglio has a definition of worship I really like:

“Worship is our response to God, both individually and corporately, for who He is and what He's done.” – Louie Giglio

Worship is a 24//7/365 exercise where we learn to put the focus and attention on God's glory rather than seeking our own. And we do that by looking for Him and responding to Him in appropriate ways every day, all day!

This morning I have a privilege of introducing you to our new Worship and Creative Arts Pastor at GFC! It's a little bit of an odd title to say someone is our Pastor of Worship, because again, that typically implies worship through music. This person will be responsible for helping us when we come together in corporate worship to have an environment and setting through which we can together put our focus and adoration on Jesus.

Before I introduce him to you I want to say just a few things:

1. Thank you for your patience as a church in this process.
2. Thank you to those who have led us so well during this time
 - Nelson
 - Steve
 - Bryan/Aaron/Phil/Ellie/ Ryan
3. Because of our focus on discipleship and raising up leaders within our church, as often as we can and when God provides, we like to hire people within our church to be on our Staff Team. About 8 months ago God brought someone to our church who has been involved with our Life Group Ministry, Leading Worship, serving with Student Ministry and lending his talents in various ways to enhance our fellowship. This morning I am excited to introduce our new Worship and Creative Arts Pastor, Ryan McCullough!

Ryan will share his story about following Jesus, leading worship and coming to GFC.

Q and A Time

1. Tell us a little about your family.
2. We've been talking about worship this morning, share a little about your understanding of worship. Scripture talks a lot about this. Paul even exhorts the church in two of his letters to sing with Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual songs. What do you think he means by that?
3. What has private and corporate worship looked like in your life and what are your hopes for our church moving forward being worshipers of Jesus?