



Why Worship Matters

CHAPTER 1: *THE PROMISE OF WORSHIP*

Chapter 1: The ***Promise*** of Worship

- ▶ ***Promise***-> realized, actualized, enabled, certain, & based upon fulfilled covenant promises in Christ.
- ▶ Chapt. 1--Focuses on HOW we ought to worship God.
- ▶ To rightly worship, we need to know God personally and properly. We must know his nature and what pleases him to rightly worship God.
- ▶ Over time, as we grow in our *understanding* of God, we also grow in *affection* and *reverence* for him.
- ▶ We respond to God's *will* by *internalizing* his word.
- ▶ Right doctrine->Right living-> Right worship

Review Class 1

- ▶ Corporate Worship is about meeting with God
- ▶ Corporate Worship is the preeminent place where God makes known his *word* and *will* for our lives.
- ▶ The pattern of worship is “*God speaks & we respond.*”
- ▶ Christ makes our worship acceptable via his constant *mediation* before the Father.
- ▶ Corporate Worship is to be guided and regulated by the scriptures.
- ▶ These principles guide us into the presence of God and please him by spurring us to offer praise and thanksgiving.

The Significance of Corporate Worship

- ▶ Do we properly grasp the significance and transformative power of gathered worship?
- ▶ Piper Video: ***Why Worship God Together?***
- ▶ Video Link: <https://share.google/tbRQXg4EYpORszAeP>
- ▶ When we gather, we should think of God's extreme *weightiness* and *infinite value*.
- ▶ Is God “above” everything else as we sing, pray and hear his word?
- ▶ God has innate, intrinsic, infinite value and majesty that rightly *incites* us to respond to him in genuine worship.

What happens to us when we worship?

- ▶ When we gather, we are to know and *openly declare* God's ultimate worth, value, beauty, perfection, power and excellence that are on display in exceeding measure.
- ▶ **Mtt 6:41** *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
- ▶ Dr. Godfrey warned of the widespread loss of a "high sense of God's worth-ship" (and Lordship) across much of Christendom today.

2025 State of Theology Survey

- ▶ How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: **God accepts the worship of all religions including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.**
- ▶ Results: **47%** Agreed strongly or somewhat strongly
- ▶ **8%** Were not sure
- ▶ **35%** Strongly disagreed
- ▶ **10%** Somewhat disagreed
- ▶ Religious pluralism is common among American evangelicals. **47% Agreed vs 45% Disagreed**
- ▶ Confusion and mixed messages have crept into the church."
- ▶ This is the result of rejection or ignorance of biblical truths.

A Right Attitude in Corporate Worship

- ▶ Do we come with an attitude of adoration and a proper sense of awe, humility, thankfulness, and joy? Do we properly express it?
- ▶ **Matthew 10:37** *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*
- ▶ **John 21:15** *Simon, Son of John, do you love me more than these? Feed my lambs.*
- ▶ **John 14:10** *If you love me, you will keep my commands.*
- ▶ How well are you fulfilling the “Great Commandment as you worship God? What distracts from this?

Covenant-Keeping Worship

- ▶ The fourth commandment remains in effect today and requires gathered worship each Lord's Day. We are to set the day apart unto the Lord.
- ▶ We are to worship without *distractions* and with proper *affections* toward God.
- ▶ Disciplined corporate worship is honoring to God and edifying for us if faithfully conducted "as directed" by God.

Corporate Worship Is Not New

- ▶ God established regular meetings with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden prior to the fall. Abel and Cain made offerings after the fall (as did many others).
- ▶ Thus, “meeting with God” was God’s mandate at the time of creation. All were to worship the Creator.
- ▶ In the O.T., the Tabernacle and the Temple were places where God revealed his word and will to his people through his chosen messengers
- ▶ We see that regular, gathered worship was the norm and that God regulated the timing and practices of corporate worship to suit his purposes and for his glory.

Worship in the N.T. and Today

- ▶ In N.T. times, there are many examples of corporate worship, but now on the Lord's Day.
- ▶ People gathered in houses and other locations for worship as the Gospel spread beyond Israel.
- ▶ Preaching of the word and the sacraments were foundational parts of gathered worship in the early church. Singing, prayer, and offerings were common as well.
- ▶ Over the centuries, the worship styles may have changed but the pattern remains today: God speaks and we respond with love, reverence, and affection.

Who May Draw Near?

▶ Anyone who possesses faith in the finished work of Christ

▶ Eph 2:12-19

12 **Remember** that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has **made us both one** and has **broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility**.

15 By abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself **one new man in place of the two**, so making peace.

16 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

17 For **through him** we both **have access in one Spirit to the Father**.

18 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands,

19 You are **no longer in the wilderness**, you are no longer in the uncircumcision, but **you are in the Lord and in Christ Jesus**,

Believers are IN Christ

- ▶ “IN” carries the idea of being tethered to, in **union** with, secured by, sovereignly led by, but also relates to adoption, reconciliation, and familial restoration.
- ▶ **IN** means exactly what Paul says, the two are made one. Strangers become friends and family. We are no longer in the wilderness of alienation. PTL!
- ▶ Jesus is the true temple, “the place,” “the point of access” for meeting with the Father. He bridges the gap and is the *means* of approaching God for us.
- ▶ **I Tim 2:3**—defines Christ’s functional role ” ***For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all...*** -> Ransome paid in full, access granted.

Believers May Draw Near

- ▶ **Hebrews 4:13-16** says: *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin.** ¹⁶ Let us then **with confidence draw near** to the throne of grace, that we may **receive mercy** and **find grace to help** in time of need.*
- ▶ By being clothed with the righteousness of Christ together with his atoning work on the cross, we may confidently *draw near* to the throne of grace.
- ▶ Christ is the exclusive means and point of access.

Summation-The Promise of Worship

- ▶ Worship “only as directed” by Gods word. Use the authorized “means of grace.”
- ▶ Understand the general patterns of worship as seen in O.T. and N.T. worship that were pleasing to God. Take care to employ those in corporate worship services.
- ▶ Know the Good Shepherd and realize that our worship of the Triune God is made possible and acceptable only IN Christ. He is the only door and gateway to God.
- ▶ It is Christ alone who makes us fit to meet God by his *imputed righteousness* to us. Further, our lowly worship is made acceptable by Christ.

Summation-The Promise of Worship

- ▶ Therefore, Jesus is our worship *leader* and the foundational **place** of worship. He is the true temple.
- ▶ If you are trusting IN Christ as your Savior, you have been redeemed and restored to a right status of fellowship with God. We are justified by faith alone in Christ. We are adopted and no longer alienated from God.
- ▶ We should not try to add or delete forms of worship for the sake of appearing relevant, novel, or entertaining to the lost at the expense of acceptable elements of worship that God has prescribed that both please and glorify him.