



# Why Worship Matters

## CHAPTER 2: *THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP*

# Class #2 Review-"Promise"

- ▶ How we should corporately worship God.
- ▶ Worship began in Eden and over time has expanded and changed as additional covenants were implemented and improved upon by Christ.
- ▶ Our worship is based in and upon Christ the Mediator and Leader of our worship. He is our point of access.
- ▶ Our worship is made acceptable by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us. He leads us into right worship.
- ▶ As we worship, we must do so according to the scriptural instructions of God's word. No strange fire.

# The Purpose of Worship

- ▶ Focus tonight is **WHY** we should worship God corporately
- ▶ Corp. worship is neither optional, nor to be inconsistent.
- ▶ We may not neglect gathering:
- ▶ **Hebrews 10:24-25** says: “And let us consider how to *stir up one another* to love and good works, *not neglecting to meet together*, as is the habit of some, but *encouraging one another*, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- ▶ We cannot “stir up” others if we are alone! Love, good works, and encouragement are to be **one-another** exercises...with urgency and caring as this pleases God.

# The God Who Deserves *EVERYTHING*

- ▶ Everything we have comes from God. Thus, we should respond with words of praise and honor.
- ▶ In heaven, there is continuous praise and worship before the throne of God.
- ▶ We are called to be diligent and enthusiastic in our corporate worship of God.
- ▶ We are not to live as islands unto ourselves. Rather, we are part of Christ's body and as such we are to serve and encourage one-another. "Fellowship of believers"
- ▶ We take joy in what we treasure. Is God your treasure?

# Count Your Blessings

- ▶ By knowing that salvation and justification are based only in Christ, we are spurred to offer joyous doxologies.
- ▶ The Apostle Paul reminds us that even during severe trials, we can find joy in Christ because he is there with us and does what is best for us in all circumstances.
- ▶ As we worship God together, nearness to him brings joy and *satisfaction* because we know that our salvation is secured by covenant promises. Christ is our trustworthy promise keeper.
- ▶ Failure to worship the God of the Bible brings misery.
- ▶ *Repentance* is yet another **gift of grace** to us from God.

# The Priority of Confession & Repentance -> Mercy

- ▶ *Come near to God and he will come near to you.* Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. - James 4:8
- ▶ Then I *acknowledged* my sin to you and *did not cover up* my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you *forgave the guilt* of my sin. - Psalms 32:5
- ▶ If we *confess* our sins, he is faithful and just and will **forgive** us our sins and **purify** us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:9
- ▶ Whoever *conceals* their sins does not prosper, but the one who *confesses* and *renounces* them finds *mercy*. - Proverbs 28:13
- ▶ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of *refreshing* may come from the Lord. - Acts 3:19

# Complete Joy By Obedience

- ▶ Only in obedience to the commands of Christ is our joy made full (complete, not lacking)
- ▶ **John 15:10-11 states:** If you **keep my commandments**, you will **abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy may be in you**, and that your **joy may be full**.
- ▶ Joy results because we have peace with God in Christ.
- ▶ We obey out of love and Spirit-driven desires to please our Lord instead of ourselves. --> Faithful servants & adopted children of God.

# The God Who Needs Nothing

- ▶ God is self-existent and self-sufficient, needing nothing.
- ▶ He graciously allows us to draw near to him, and it is of great benefit to **us** when we are near him.
- ▶ When we are at peace with God, his benevolence overflows to us. He desires to bless his beloved children **abundantly**.
- ▶ We were created to **delight in** and worship God. Thus, he graciously allows us to bring our *sacrifices of praise, prayerful petitions, and service* to him corporately each week for our edification and his glory.
- ▶ Our greatest **hope** is to worship in God's immediate presence for all eternity. This is a *sure promise* of the New Covenant grounded in Christ's *blood and resurrection*.

# The Grace of Worship

- ▶ The privilege of meeting with God is all of grace.
- ▶ By faith, we must be **justified** by Christ before we may approach the Father.
- ▶ The *privilege* of worshipping God is a form and means of grace granted by our loving Father.
- ▶ Jesus declares in **Jn 14:6** *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father **except through me**”*
- ▶ We must approach our heavenly Father only IN Christ, corporately and individually. Christ is the *exclusive* way.

# Abundant, Ever-Arriving Grace

- ▶ Because of saving grace, we gain broader access to God's "**ever-arriving**" grace that repeatedly comes into our lives in various forms and degrees. It **enables** and **conforms** us to be more like Christ.
- ▶ God sends grace-upon-grace to bring us *closer* to him, to make us more *dependent* upon him, to *bolster* our faith, to *enable* obedience, and to make us more *Christlike*.
- ▶ These waves of grace come whether we are aware of them or not for our good and for our preservation in the Lord. "Preservation of the saints" is by grace.

# The *Tone* of Worship

- ▶ “Tone” refers to what constitutes acceptable worship.
- ▶ **Heb 12:28-29** *Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.*
- ▶ **Context** refers to the setting of worship. We enter into an “intensified” presence of God each Lord’s Day.
- ▶ As we approach, we must do so with a strong sense of *reverence and awe*, with grateful hearts. We must exercise proper decorum as we enter and worship.

# The ***Tone*** of Worship

- ▶ The **tone**, or character, or atmosphere of the worship service is precisely where “decently and in order” comes into play. Text: “When we remember where we are and who we’re with, the tone of worship begins to fall into place as God intends.” (Orderly + Reverence)
- ▶ Psalm 2 says we are to “*serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.*” Right thinking > right worship
- ▶ Sunday worship is a high *privilege of grace*. It is more than a *tradition* or *superficial ceremony*. It is certainly much more important than other available *recreations* on Sundays. Disciplined, diligent worship matters.
- ▶ Do we rightly **prioritize and savor** Sunday worship time?

# What Is **NOT** Acceptable Worship?

- ▶ Anything that distracts or detracts from focusing upon God.
- ▶ Things that disrupt or bring disorder beyond the approved means of grace.
- ▶ Addition to or neglect of practices or information that leads to idolatry or the entry of pagan practices.(Strange Fire, Synteny, >>> false, halfhearted worship via **Empty Rituals**).
- ▶ Attitudes that lead to pride and self-merit.
- ▶ False doctrine, a desire to be entertained, a “what’s in it for me” mindset, **Consumerism**.
- ▶ Failure to come to God IN Christ in concert with the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Failure to approach God with reverence, awe, & thankfulness.

# Class 3-Summary of Right Worship

- ▶ In corporate worship, we are seeking to commune with God.
- ▶ Approach God with proper decorum and reverence. He is preeminent.
- ▶ Offer up sacrifices of praise and give offerings out of thankfulness to him.
- ▶ We are to delight in him with glad hearts by offering words of honor and gratitude. Sing of his praises and glory with joy.
- ▶ As we pray, we should confess sin, repent, and seek God's forgiveness. Offer humble petitions for ourselves and others. Be thankful!
- ▶ When we hear the word preached, we must hide it in our hearts for future guidance and avoidance of sin via the Holy Spirit's application.
- ▶ Hear and know God's word and will for our daily lives. → OBEY!
- ▶ Leave as blessed people who have been in the very presence of Almighty God. Work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Rejoice in Christ.

# Why Worship Matters-Church Membership Matters

Ask Ligonier: Dr Sinclair Ferguson

- ▶ How can we persuade someone that church membership is important?