

love God - build the Church - reach the World

love God by Pursuing God in Corporate Worship

- Love God
- By pursuing Him in Word and prayer
- By worshipping Him corporately and personally
- 1 Chronicles 16:8-36
- Saturated with God
- Saturated with verbs
- Assumption of both mind and emotions

What is worship?

- To give or express the worth of someone or something with the mind and the emotions
- God is always worthy of worship, in every place, in every situation, in every setting
- Therefore, life is to be lived with a disposition of worship and honor to the living and true God
- What we will talk about this morning is not to take away from this reality
- What we are considering is in addition to constant personal worship

The corporate nature of worship

- By corporate is meant a gathering, group, or company of people
- In the bible this worship gathering is described as small as 2 or 3 and up to a multitude no man can

number

What does the Bible have to say about corporate worship?

- Old Testament references in Exodus, tabernacle, and then temple worship
- These were not weekly for all, but occasional and centered in the city of Jerusalem
- Emergence of inter-testamental synagogue worship during time of exile
- A local and weekly place of education in the Scriptures and traditions of the Jewish people

from the Law

- This is the practice into which Jesus is born – Luke 4:16
- John 4:21-24 - A paradigm shifting statement that Jesus makes to the Samaritan woman
- That begins to be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit -

Acts 2

- Afterward, a transition from Temple worship as well as overlapping times in homes
- Acts 2:42-47 - Essential parts of the gathered church community
- After scattering from Jerusalem, still a connection with synagogues for a time, then either rented halls,

homes, or river sides

- This seems to be out of necessity, not out of design
- Assumption of gathered Christians in the NT epistles, especially Timothy/Titus
- Revelation 7:9, City of ch.21-22

What is New Covenant corporate worship?

- Distinctions between Old Covenant/NC

- OC includes a special place geographically, a special building, priesthood, animal sacrifices, incense, garments, utensils, etc.

- The book of Hebrews helpfully clarifies that many of these things were types and shadows, having their ultimate fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ

- 1 Peter 2:4-12 - A rich NC passage describing our privileges and worship

- When we gather, we do so as a people saved through the Gospel to offer worship to the Triune God through the mediation of Jesus Christ in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

- There is an emerging pattern in the NT of a change of the day of worship/sabbath from the 7th to the 1st day of the week

- Worship is:

- an act of loving honor, to give to God that of which He is worthy

- and act of loving hearing, to be personally transformed by the Word of God

Seeing what corporate worship is, how should we approach it?

- More than a mere Bible study

- More than a concert to sing inspiring songs

- More than a gathering of Christian people

- It is the personal-corporate engagement with the

living and Triune God, through Jesus, by the Spirit

- Seeing what corporate worship is...
- How should we prepare beforehand?
- Our hearts, our bodies, our time?
- How should we engage during?
- Attentive, prayerful, careful -or- in and out, wandering, distracted, chatting, absent?
- What should be the dominant attitude?
- Joy, reverence, desire, exuberance, humility