

THE CHURCH – WORSHIPERS

Lesson 15

Introduction: For years worship took a back seat to the Word. The prevailing thought was that worship was simply preparation for the Word. Today, in most churches, we have brought worship more to the forefront – polished is up, made it contemporary and pursue an excellence in sound and production. While all of these are noble, I fear that we are still falling far short of what God has in mind for our worship. When people ask me which is more important, “Worship or the Word?”, I say neither. They are both important! They are both meant to bring us into encounters with our God. Therefore, in today’s picture/value, we will be sharing why we place such an emphasis upon worship.

1. PICTURE / VALUE #1: A RESTORED CHURCH ✓
2. PICTURE / VALUE #2: THE CHURCH – A HOSPITAL ✓
3. PICTURE / VALUE #3: THE CHURCH – A SCHOOL ✓
4. PICTURE / VALUE #4: THE CHURCH – A FAMILY ✓
5. PICTURE / VALUE #5: THE CHURCH – WORSHIPERS
6. PICTURE / VALUE #6: THE CHURCH – SERVANTS ✓
7. PICTURE / VALUE #7: THE CHURCH – AN ADVANCING ARMY

***IN THIS CLASS WE WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING POINTS...**

- WHY WORSHIP IS SO IMPORTANT
- A TREATISE ON PRAISE & WORSHIP (PSALMS 150)
 - WHERE?
 - WHY?
 - HOW?
 - WHO?

****ACTS 15:16 – “... I WILL RETURN AND REBUILD DAVID’S FALLEN TENT. ITS RUINS I WILL REBUILD, AND I WILL RESTORE IT...”***

1. WHY WORSHIP IS SO IMPORTANT

****John 4:23 – “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the TRUE WORSHIPERS will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers THE FATHER SEEKS.”***

a. TO KNOW HIM

****Psalms 76:1 – “God is **known** in Judah” (Note: Judah means Praise)***

b. BRINGS HIS PRESENCE & GLORY

****Psalms 114:2 – “Judah (Praise) became God’s **sanctuary**”***

****Psalms 22:3(K.J.V.) – “O thou that **inhabitest** (feels at home) the praises...”***

****2 Chron 5:12-14 – “All the Levites stood on the **east side of the altar**, dressed in **fine linen** ... The trumpeters and singers joined in **unison**, as with **one voice**, to give praise and thanks to the Lord ... THEN the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud ... for the **glory of the Lord** filled the temple of God.”***

c. **BRINGS VICTORY**

**2 Chron 20:2, 22 – “A vast army is coming against you ... As they began to sing and praise the Lord set ambushes against the men ... who were invading”*

d. **BRINGS FREEDOM & DELIVERANCE**

**Acts 16:25-26 – “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.”*

e. **MOST FRUITFUL**

**Numbers 26:2, 22 – “Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel ... These are the clans of Judah (Praise) as they were listed, 76,500.”*

f. **PREPARES BRIDE FOR HIS COMING**

**Acts 15:16 – “After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent...”*

**Is 61:3 – “and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”*

**Ps 33:1(K.J.V.) – Praise is comely (pleasant to look at, attractive) to the upright.”*

2. **A TREATISE ON PRAISE & WORSHIP (PS 150)**

**Treatise – “A written work dealing formally and systematically with a subject.”*

a. **WHERE?**

v. 1 – “Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary, praise Him in His mighty heavens.”

i. **His Sanctuary (US)**

ii. **His Mighty Heavens (GOD)**

***PRINCIPLE #1: Wherever He is and I am is appropriate!**

b. **WHY?**

v. 2 – “Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.”

i. **His Acts of Power** – What He does!

ii. **His Surpassing Greatness** – Who He is!

***PRINCIPLE #2: The foundation of P & W is not feelings, but who God is!**

c. **HOW?**

v. 3-5 – “Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with tambourine and dancing, praise Him with the strings and flute, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals.”

- i. **Lively – In spirit and in truth!**
- ii. **Loud – Reverence is respect & obedience, not silence!**
- iii. **Various Instruments & Expressions**

- a. Wind, String & Percussion Instruments

- b. See Supplement for 9 Biblical Expressions of P&W

***PRINCIPLE #3: P&W begins in the heart, but is expressed outwardly!**

***PRINCIPLE #4: It's not a matter of choosing which to express, but expressing all as the Spirit leads!**

***PRINCIPLE #5: He already has lead with His Word!**

***PRINCIPLE #6: Never *excuse* Biblical Worship, but always be ready to *explain* it**

***PRINCIPLE #7: While God is a God of variety, He is also a God of unity!**

***PRINCIPLE #8: Let it flow naturally! *(Note: It will probably be awkward at first, but eventually should become very natural)**

d. WHO?

v. 6 – “Let everything that has *breath* praise the Lord.

- i. **Are you breathing? – Then He’s talking to YOU!**

- ii. **N.T. – Word for “Spirit” is breath – How much more we who have received His Spirit!**

CONCLUSION:

So it’s pretty obvious from the Word that P&W is very important in God’s eyes, and that He has clearly outlined it’s purpose, benefits, and even the way it’s to be expressed. All of this PLEASE HIM, but most of all it pleases Him when YOU do it.

Knowing all of this, what are the “excuses” that people give for NOT praising and worshiping. Do any of them hold water now that we KNOW the truth?