

Psalm 100: David Teaches Israel How to Worship

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."
(William Temple)
1. "When we lift our hands in praise and worship, we break spiritual jars of perfume over Jesus. The fragrance of our praise fills the whole earth and touches the heart of God." (Dennis Ignatius)
 2. "I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven." (A. W. Tozer)
- B. Background
1. Psalm 100 is entitled in Hebrew *hdwtl rwmzm mizmor lethodah*, not "A Psalm of Praise," as is often translated, but "A Psalm for the Confession," or for the confession-offering, correctly translated by the Chaldee: *atdwt Nbrwq le axbv shibcha al kurban todetha*, "Praise for the sacrifice of confession."
 2. The Vulgate, Septuagint, and Ethiopic are translated similarly. The Arabic attributes it to David. The Syriac has the following prefixed: "Without a name."
 3. It is likely that it was revised by inspiration and included in Psalms after the captivity, as a form of thanksgiving to God for that great deliverance, as well as an encouragement to the people to consecrate themselves and to be careful in the activity of public worship.
 4. Psalm 100:1 - "Make a joyful noise" (*weyrh hariu*, exult, triumph, leap for joy) "all ye lands" (Not only Jews, but Gentiles, for the Lord bestows his benefits on all with a liberal hand)
- C. Worship should be joyful because:
1. Christians have every reason to rejoice
 2. Worship is designed to be joyful
 3. I can do something about becoming more joyful in worship
- D. Read: Psalm 100
1. Psalm 100 is perhaps the second most well-known Psalm in the Bible, extolling the virtues of worshipping God.
 2. To the psalmist, worship was joyful, full of gladness, and overflowing with thanksgiving - Psalm 122:1
 3. When we gather for worship, do we feel the same things David felt when he worshiped God with fellow Israelites?
 4. Do we anticipate assembling, eagerly engaging in worship, or are we just doing our duty?
- E. Worship should be joyful because

I. CHRISTIANS HAVE EVERY REASON TO REJOICE

- A. Psalm 100:1 - Christians should already be joyful, even before beginning to worship. How much more should we rejoice when in worship?
- B. Phil. 4:4; Luke 2:10, 10:20; James 1:2-3; Lam. 3:22-24; Psalm 100:3; 3John 4

II. WORSHIP IS DESIGNED TO BE JOYFUL

- A. Psalm 100:2
- B. Singing is a joyful activity - James 5:13; Acts 16:25; Heb. 13:15
- C. Bible study is a joyful activity - Matt. 5:6; Psalm 1:1-2, 119:148; Jer. 15:16
- D. Giving is to be a joyful activity; it gives us the means whereby we can express our similarity to the Father - 2Cor. 9:7; Acts 20:35
- E. Praying is joyful - 1Sam. 2:1; Psalm 68:3; Luke 1:46-47
- F. Partaking of the Lord's Supper, while solemn, has overtones of joy
 - 1. 1Cor. 11:26; Rom. 5:10-11; 1Peter 1:8; John 16:22

III. I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT BECOMING MORE JOYFUL IN WORSHIP

- A. Psalm 100:3-5 - Know the Lord, know myself, and be thankful that God is God, and that I am me
- B. I must come to know God the way God intends for me to know Him
 - 1. Jer. 9:23-24, 32:38-39; John 17:3
- C. I must come to know myself
 - 1. I must accompany my physical actions of worship with mental, emotional, and spiritual work - 1Cor. 14:15; John 4:24
 - 2. All of my worship should come from my heart; it must begin there and be motivated from there - Matt. 22:37; Col. 3:23
 - 3. I can become devoted to unity in the Church - Rom. 15:32; Phil. 2:2
 - a. A quick way to kill joy is to cause dissension among the church.
 - 4. I must understand that God is pleased with authorized worship, and He helps us with our worship when we endeavor to worship that way
 - a. Phil.2:13; Heb. 12:28, 13:20-21

Conclusion:

A. "Worship gatherings are not always spectacular, but they must always be spiritual. If a church looks for or works for the spectacular, it will miss the spiritual. If a person enters a gathering to be wowed with something impressive, with a style that fits him just right, with an order of service and song selection designed just the right way, that person may miss the supernatural presence of God. Worship is spiritual whenever people come hungry to respond, react, and receive from God for who He is and what He has done. A church worshiping according to the word doesn't show up to perform or be entertained; they come needy and thirsty for grace from the Lord and the Christ, and then gratefully receiving what they need as they offer praise; the only proper response to God who saves us." (Matt Chandler, Creature of the Word)