

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore — April 19, 2020
“Why do you do that?!” (Part 1): Worship

Series Rationale

- Why this series? Why now?
 - In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, lock down, quarantine, the Lord spoke to me on the need to address certain things we do in the church.
 - Especially now that we are not in the traditional church building ‘mode’, some of the things we do in our ‘churchly routine’ may have been dropped, stopped, changed, or has taken on a new look & feel.
 - Things like worship, tithes/offering, and baptism & communion.
 - **QUESTION:** If we are not meeting in the traditional sense, do we continue to do these things? If they’re that important, why? If so, how do we do them a part from the church building?

Scripture Reading (Colossians 3:16-17)

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Introduction

- For those that have been a part of the church for any length of time, the concept of worship probably seems ‘normal’.
- There may be some that have never understood why songs are sung in church.
 - Why do we sing?
 - Why are the songs typically at the beginning of the service?
 - What does ‘worship’ mean? What about the phrase ‘praise’?
 - Hymns? Contemporary music? No music or ‘a cappella’? Organ only?
 - Why is this such an embedded part of the church process?
- We see worship through song throughout scripture:
 - David was a wonderful musician
 - **1 Samuel 16:23**, “And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well...”
 - **2 Samuel 6:** when the ark of the covenant was returned to Jerusalem, David led the procession with a celebration of “songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.”
 - A little known verse that seems to be skipped or rushed over
 - **[After celebrating Passover/Last Supper] Matthew 26:30**, “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

- From the Old Testament to the New, we see music and song throughout scripture.
- **What is “worship”?**
 - Hebrew = ‘shachah’ = prostrate/bow down
 - Greek = ‘proskuneo’ = respect/homage/reverence towards God.
 - In short: our reverent respect for God as our Lord and King, for He is worthy.
 - Worship = “Worth-ship”

Verse 16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”**
 - I thought we were talking about singing songs here?!
 - We can NEVER disassociate the Word of God from our time of worship!
 - The words we sing are of utmost importance!!
 - We need to pay attention to what we are singing.
 - **QUOTE: [Curtis Vaughan]** “We are to submit to the demands of the Christian message and let it become so deeply implanted within us as to control all our thinking.”
 - In other words, what we think about God will dictate how we worship Him.
 - Some would say “worship is our gateway into the presence of God.”
 - Agree and Disagree.
 - If this is the case, they need to contain words of worship and praise that are about Him, directed to Him, all to glorify Him.
 - **Psalm 100**, “Make a joyful noise to **the Lord**, all the earth! Serve **the Lord** with gladness! Come into **his** presence with singing! Know that **the Lord, he** is God **[no one greater than He]**! It is **he** who made us **[Creator]**, and we are **his**; we are **his** people **[we are exclusively owned]**, and the sheep of **his** pasture **[Shepherd/Protector/Provider]**. Enter **his** gates with thanksgiving, and **his** courts with praise **[His Kingdom]**! Give thanks to **him**; bless **his** name! For **the Lord** is good; **his** steadfast love endures forever **[loving]**, and **his** faithfulness **[faithful]** to all generations **[He is forever]**.”
 - Worship should be something we should be glad to do! Something that brings us joy, because we acknowledge being in the presence of God Almighty, and are thankful to Him for who He is and what He has done for us!
 - It’s all about HIM!!
- **“Teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”**
 - **Ephesians 5:19-20**, “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks

always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

- Psalms/Hymns/Spiritual Songs = one in the same.
 - Doesn't matter WHAT we call it.
 - It's HOW we perform [**not the style of music**] and WHY we perform it.
 - Must come from the heart, with thanksgiving, for the Lord!
- Worship/Praise without thankfulness, is essentially meaningless.
 - 1 Corinthians 13 says something similar about 'love'.
 - **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**, “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”
 - WORSHIP SONG: “**Abashila**” (Bemba language, Zambia); def. = the holy one, or holy place where God sits.
 - If you can begin to understand Verse 16, then the next verse should be a ‘no brainer’ for ya.

Verse 17

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Our life [**not just the 3-4 songs we sing on Sunday**], in name and action, should be worship to the Lord.
 - **QUOTE: [David Guzik]** “The new man lives his life, all his life, for Jesus. He will only seek to do the things that he may do in the name of the Lord Jesus, and he will persevere in the difficulty of doing such things, knowing that he is doing them in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
- Whether we are a pastor, educator, medical professional/first responder, salesman, technician, truck driver, tradesman, husband, wife, dad, mom, employer, or employee...in ALL that we do, we glorify, we worship, we praise, we honor, we bow down before our God and King!!

Application

- So how do we do that in the here and now, outside the traditional church building??
- When we started our online church adventure, I put out a quick video message regarding our responsibility during this time (“Spiritual Negligence”).
 - How we do Church and Worship is different nowadays.
 - So how do we truly, biblically worship during a pandemic?

- The Bible gives us quite a few examples of worship during hard times.
 - During the Exodus/Crossing the Red Sea **[Exodus 15]**
 - **Exodus 15:2**, “The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.”
 - Jonah in the belly of the fish **[Jonah 2]**
 - **Jonah 2:7, 9**, “When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple...But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!”
 - David’s many psalms/songs of praise came during times of ‘flight’/fear for his life.
 - Seeking refuge in the Lord during times of fear and sorrow.
 - **Psalms 31:1-2**, “In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me! Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!”
 - Seeking mercy and forgiveness in times of emotional pain/regret.
 - **Psalms 51:1-2**, “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!”
 - Paul and Silas in prison **[Acts 16]**; praying and worshipping God amidst being beaten with rods and being imprisoned for their faith.
 - **Acts 16:25**, “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”
 - Our worship could be a strong testimony to others in how we respond in the midst of fear or tragedy.
- The Prophet Isaiah offers us a glimpse.
 - **Isaiah 6:1-3**, “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’”
 1. God is on the throne! He is sovereign. He is Lord. He is King. He is in control.
 2. His presence is all-encompassing. He is everywhere.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19**, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”
 - If our body, as a member of the Church, is a ‘temple’, then God is with us wherever we are, Amen!
 3. Being in His presence, our response, like the seraphim, should be constant worship!
- Jesus offers us a glimpse.

- **John 4:23-24**, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

I. “Spirit” = we are worshipping from a place that is “truly spiritual”.

- We’re seeking to praise a God that is spirit, who envelopes us in the spirit, therefore we worship from a place of spiritual awareness of who God is.
- This should happen anywhere and always.

2. “Truth” = worship that is heartfelt and based on biblical truth about who God is. God is Truth.

- Is your house a house of worship?

- (William Barclay) “Let us never forget the duty of worship. It is given to every man to live in two worlds, this world of space and time, and the world of eternal things. Our danger is that to become so involved in this world that we forget the other. As the day begins, as the day ends and ever and again in the midst of its activities, we should turn aside, if only for a moment, and enter God’s presence. Every man carries with him his own secret shrine. But so many forget to enter it.”

Conclusion

- We don’t stop worshipping because we’re confined to our homes.
- We don’t stop worshipping because we don’t have a worship director or team leading us in a few songs in a church building.
- Just the opposite, we worship because of who God is.
- We worship because God is with us, wherever we are.
- We worship because our life should be an indicator of the response we have towards Him who sacrificed His only Son, so we could live!
 - A life of joy, praise, and thanksgiving to God in all things!