

Sermon Series: The Blessed Life
Sermon Title: Why We Worship
By: Mark Medley

Sermon Text: *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within is, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, forever and ever, Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Introduction

This doxology is a good example of a pattern of scripture (especially in Paul's writings): there is an exposition of *who God is*, and *what God has done* (God's nature, his wonderful plan, the operation of that plan by the Son, the work of the Holy Spirit) and then there is an overflow, an explosion and indistinguishable explosion of praise.

To him (who is great and able to do great things) be glory **in the church, and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever, Amen.**

Jesus has brought him glory through obedience, through reflecting his heart to the world, through his work. Now it is the church's turn to do this as well.

We are taking a couple of weeks here, at the occasion of this passage to drop our anchor and talk a little more in depth about worship.

Why is worship important?

Worship is important because you were created to worship! And because you were created to worship, you cannot help but worship; you will worship something! You will value something, you will be enthralled with something, consumed with something, you will love something, you will give yourself to something. Your hobby or interests, nature, your girlfriend, cars, video games, your appetites...

You were created to know and walk with this Almighty, kind, loving, generous, powerful, just, fearful God. Because you were created to know him, you will never be fulfilled until you live a life that truly worships Him.

What is worship?

A revelation —> a response —> an ever deepening relationship with God

The first step in the process is that God graciously reveals himself to us (his word, his works his Spirit). When we see Him we will worship him. We don't worship him because we have not seen him. **We worship him only to the extent that we have seen him.**

Sometimes we can't/don't see him because we are so distracted. We have too many things vying for our

attention. We love other things. The depth, quality and level of passion in our worship is directly proportional to the way we view God. We cannot worship big when we have a small God.

Revelation - Seeing God as He is

God is greater than my present revelation of Him.

"I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you" (Job 42:5-6).

- Like a good friendship or a good marriage, our worship is to be a never-ending process of progressive intimacy with the Almighty.
- Holy, loving, faithful, sovereign, fearful, wise, strong, kind, creative, truthful, all-present, all-powerful, all-knowing, infinitely beautiful, just, good God.
- If you don't see him like this, you just won't think that much of him - and worship is limited.

Response - reacting to what we see and know about God

A yielding of our hearts, our actions, our way of life

Corporate - all that Paul has been saying in Ephesians has had the tie in to a corporate expression, a corporate experience of God.

Corporate expression within the building (and House Churches)

Corporate worship is important because God is a living God, powerful and active. When we encounter him, things happen. This experience of the manifold presence of God can be even more powerful when we come together as a body in worship.

Being here is important (be on time - this group got here probably before many of you woke up this morning - they have practiced - they take meet in worship triads in order to get clarify the vision and get progressively better - they take seriously the call to create an atmosphere that is conducive to worship; but they can't make you worship. You have to come with a heart ready to worship. You have to open your mouth and raise your own hands and lift your own song up to the Lord; you have to come expecting to meet the Lord together.

1 Cor. 14:26 speaks of this corporate expression: *When you come together, each one has a hymn, a scripture, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.*

When we gather:

- 1 God is glorified - it is about him and not us
- 2 The church is edified - us to each other; us to God; God to us - gifts of the Spirit
- 3 God speaks to us
- 4 God fights for us (supernatural deliverance)
- 5 The lost are reached

Why we worship the way we do:

Sing - Psalm 30:4

Clap - Psalm 47:1

All kinds of instruments - Psalm 150

Dance - Psalm 149:3
Bow - Psalm 95:6
Shout - Psalm 32:11
Declare - Psalm 51:15
Be silent - Habakkuk 2:20

* I have to open my mouth, I have to move my body, I have to decide to respond

Corporate worship outside the building

Belong - Know the Lord and making him known through the experience of Community

Grow - Growing to know him more (so we see him more, so we worship him more) and helping others grow to know him more

Serve/Mission - reaching others; We exist to make new worshipers

Relationship - walking faithfully with God and others

- It is walking with God
- Talking with God
- Listening to God (Word and Spirit)
- Knowing what pleases God
- Doing what pleases God (loving others; reaching others; helping others grow)
- It is gathering with his people

#####

The questions that follow are for House Church Group Discussion.

1. What has led to Paul's explosive worship?
2. Why is worship important?
3. What is the basis of worship?
4. Do you worship regularly beyond our corporate gatherings?
5. How else is worship expressed through our lives?