

TREASURING CHRIST IN THE CHURCH: Worship Psalm 95
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INTRODUCTION

- **Hebrews 10:23-24** and **Col.3:12-17**
- Worship wars are a travesty, because it distracts the church from the fact that worship IS war... The exalting of a conquering King and the battling of unbelief.

What is Worship?

1. More than a song
 - i. Engagement: The ascribing of worth to the blessed worthy One
 - ii. Enthralment: The captivating fascination of attention
 - iii. Enchantment: The filling of great delight
 - iv. Expressing love in heart, soul, mind, strength..declaration (love)
 - v. Missional
2. Needs the Song (necessary and natural)
 - i. God gave us words and used words in the creation of the world and recreation of His children
 - ii. God will find pleasure in His people using words to speak and sing of His worth forevermore
 - iii. In the between time, God has called us to praise Him with words together while we declare the gospel to the lost so that they would become a part of the number of us worshipping God together

A Gathering (vv.1-5)

1. Come...into His presence
 - a. Distance is implied
 - b. We meet Him on His terms
 - c. There is nothing of demands made by worshippers
2. With...Singing
 - a. To the Lord

- b. Joyful noise
- c. Songs of Praise
3. Before Him
 - a. Ruler
 - b. Rock of our salvation
4. Promoting Treasure
 - a. He is Great!
 - b. Sovereign maker
5. Battling unbelief
 - a. Anything treasured more than Christ is unbelief on display -- you cannot believe in God and treasure something or someone above Him
 - b. The battle is engaged not in how we feel, but the declaration of who He is
 - c. Singing of His greatness helps us see His greatness -- the battle with belief is with sight. When we treasure what we see, faith is removed and without faith it's impossible to please God.

A Gathering of the Redeemed (vv.6-11)

1. Come...
 - a. Worship (exaltation)
 - b. Bow down (humiliation)
2. Before God the maker and re-maker
3. By the sheep of His pasture
 - a. **Psalm 23**
 - b. **John 10:14-18**
 - c. **1 Peter 2:24-25**
4. Demanded response - repentance
 - a. Condition...if you hear
 - b. Exemplary warning
 - i. Meribah, Massah
 - ii. Referencing rebellion (meribah) and testing (massah) in the wilderness
 - iii. **Hebrews 3:12-19**
 - c. Centrality of Scripture
 - i. Warnings
 - ii. Truth and consequences
 - d. Heart of worship
 - e. Follow (disciples)

A Gathering of the Redeemed to be on Mission

1. Declare His glory among the nations with false gods (**Ps.96**)
2. Be glad and celebrate with believers of other nations (**Ps.97**)
3. Proclaim the praises of the returning king (**Ps.98**)
4. Sing it...God is Holy! (**Ps.99**)
 - a. The song of heaven now (**Isa.6; Rev.4**)
 - b. The song of all God's creatures then (**Rev.5; 15-19**)
 - c. If a pastor / elder / song leader / musician does not love missions, they do not love worship. If a leader cannot lead the people on mission, he does not lead them in worship.
 - d. Essentially, until UBC learns to worship together, we will not effectively be on mission together. We will relegate to the handful we applaud in our hearts, yet God has demanded that all of His sheep applaud Him from the heart, and declare His greatness to the nations.

Practical Implications for UBC

1. We are to gather together for worship
2. We should seek to maintain transcendence and immanence with God
3. We are to emphasize redemption, meaning we are to gospel centered and Christ emphatic in all our worship
4. We are to have the Scripture central for instruction, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness
5. We are to seek to be responsive (we should leave changed)
6. Song is to be seen as a natural outflow and inclusive essential for worship and it should be marked by joy and words
7. Our body will be more involved in missions when we are more joy-filled in our worship. If people don't like to worship God together, how can they proclaim His greatness among the nations that hate them? (this includes: **offerings, mission trips, praying for missions, evangelism...**)

Response

1. Don't be as those who have hardened their hearts. Are you a worshipper of the Maker of heaven and earth? In other words, are you one of the sheep of His pasture (John 10) -- Do you acknowledge that God is creator and holy? Do you believe that you were made by God for His pleasure, but realize you are a sinner, seeking your own pleasure, therefore needing a Savior? Do you believe that Jesus died in your place on the cross for your sin and is risen from the dead? Are you willing to turn from your sinful, selfish living and pursue Him as your greatest treasure?
2. If you are a sheep of His pasture, have you grown dull in the joyful worship of the great creator king? Have you allowed your joy to be robbed because you've focused on instruments or style? Repent. Turn from wanting worship on your terms and forgetting the basic "come, let us...". Consumerism has no place in the heart of a worshipper.