

Lecture 7- Biblical Overview of Worship (V): New Testament

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.
Hebrews 10:10-14

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:15-16

Key Concepts

- Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament worship
- Worshipping on the Lord's day
- Word-centered and God-centered worship

Lecture Objectives

- Overview worship practices in the New Testament
- Examine the centrality of Christ in New Testament worship

Preliminary Questions

- Do you view participating in worship as a participation in heaven? What would this do to shape your preparation for worship?
- How can your church's worship be more 'saturated' by the word?
- In what ways is your life a reflection of constant worship and a life lived *as* worship?
- How do you further the horizontal aspect of worship in the midst of your church body?

Biblical Overview of Worship (V): New Testament

I. Jesus Christ is the Fulfillment of Old Testament Worship

A. Christ is the perfect sacrifice and Passover lamb (Heb.10:10-14; I Co. 5:7)

“See the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load”

B. Christ is the New Tabernacle and temple (John 1:14; 2:18-22)

“He tabernacled among us...”

C. Christ opens way to the new Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24)

Worship reaches back past and forward to what is to come

D. Christ is our great high priest (Hebrews 4:14-16)

What is fundamental about worship is whether or not we are joined to this high priest

E. Christ leads His people in worship (Hebrews 2:10-13)

II. New Testament Expressions of Worship (Big Picture)

A. Outburst of the song of the Gospel (Luke 1-2)

B. Hymns in the New Testament (Romans 11:33-36; Phil.2:5-11; Col.1:15-20; Eph.5:14; I Tim.3:16)

C. Heavenly worship (Rev. 5:9-14; 7:9-12; 14:1-3; 15:2b-4)

III. Worship in Spirit and Truth (John 4:19-26)

A. From the heart (Mk. 7:6-8)

B. According to God's Word

IV. Worship in the Early Church: “A Worshipping Community of Grace on a Kingdom Mission”

- A. Worship central to daily lives (Acts 2:42-47)
- B. Gathering in name of Christ (Mt. 18:20)
- C. Early church worship as synagogue practice with Christ-centered Gospel focus?
- D. The Lord’s Supper brings forward covenant renewal and sacrifice
- E. Jesus Himself is worshiped as God
- F. Worship is fuel, motivation, and goal of missions (Romans 15:8-9)

V. Corporate Worship on the Lord’s Day

- A. First day week came together to break bread - Acts 20:7
- B. Assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus - I Corinthians 5:4
- C. On first day every week set aside money - I Corinthians 16:2
- D. Sabbath-rest is already and not yet - Hebrews 4:1-11
- E. John in Spirit on “Lord’s Day” - Revelation 1:10

VI. Corporate Worship Fuels and Motivates All of Life as Worship

- A. Present life as living sacrifice - Romans 12:1-2
- B. Do all (including eating and drinking) for glory of God - I Corinthians 10:31
- C. “Serving” Lord God in day to day work - Colossians 3:22-24
- D. Continual “sacrifice” of praise in doing good to others - Hebrews 13:15-16

VII. Worship to be God-centered and Word-centered

- A. Word-centered in all aspects/elements
 - 1. Preaching
 - 2. Non-preaching elements
 - 3. Sacraments
- B. God-centered means Father-Son-Holy Spirit
 - 1. Focus upon God as object of worship
 - 2. Focus upon God relationally present with body of Christ
 - 3. More than correct content - also God’s personal presence in worship

VIII. Worship Has Horizontal Dimension

- A. One another exhortation - Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 5:18-20
- B. Worship context of I Corinthians 12-14
- C. Meet together to encourage one another - Hebrews 10:25

IX. Worship Leadership and Participation

- A. Under leadership of elders who are under Christ
(Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-7; Hebrews 13:17; Eph. 4:1-16; I Tim. 4:13-14)
- B. Participation of members exercising gifts under oversight of elders
(I Peter 2:4-5; I Corinthians 14:26)

X. Worship to be “Understood” by Those Present

- A. Acts 2:1-13 - hear with understanding the wonders of God!
Intelligibility for the sake of people being drawn into the presence of God and overwhelmed by that presence
- B. I Corinthians 14:16; 23-25 – covenant children, new believers, unbelievers

XI. Worship and Singing

(See: “Singing in the Body and in the Spirit” by Steven R. Guthrie in *Journal for the Evangelical Theological Society*, Dec. 2003, 633-46)

- A. God uses singing as a means of bringing glory to himself
- B. Ephesians 5:18-21
- C. Colossians 3:15-17
- D. James 5:13

XII. Worship Elements

- A. Prayer (I Timothy 2:1)
- B. Offering (2 Corinthians 9:7-9)
- C. Reading and preaching scripture (2 Timothy 4:2)
- D. Singing (Colossians 3:15-17 and Ephesians 5:8-20)
- E. Sacraments (I Corinthians 11:23ff)
- F. Other
 - 1. Confessions of faith
 - 2. Oaths and vows
 - 3. Testimonies
 - 4. Fellowship

XIII. Eschatological Worship – Heavenly Worship in First Fruits Now!