

“Making My Life A Ministry”
A Study in the Practical Meaning of Ephesians 2:10
Lesson 07 – Corporate Worship

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

PRIORITY #1 - THE PRACTICE OF *regular weekly corporate worship*. That all believers would be instructed in the Bible’s theology of worship, and would know how to prepare themselves to participate in the event of the corporate worship of God; that they would be committed to the significance of corporate worship and observance of the Lord’s Day as set apart unto Christ and His Kingdom, but also for godly rest and rejuvenation, in their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social dimensions of life.

How Scripture enjoins corporate worship -

Psalm 33:1-3 Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Command: To worship the Lord

Reason: The recognition of the fittingness of worship of God

Manner: Instrumentally and vocally and joyfully

Competency: with skill – trained ability

Psalm 100:1-4 1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Command: to shout in joy, to worship in gladness, to come to Him

Command: to know the Lord as Creator, possessor of His people

Command: to come to Him with thanksgiving and praise

Exodus 20:8-11 8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Command: remember the day of worship and rest

Command: use the work week to work and get it done, following God’s example

Command: recognize the special blessedness and holiness of the worship day

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Command: keep on meeting together as believers

Command: keep on encouraging each other

What Does Corporate Worship Involve? Consider John 4:23-24 and the question: “How, then, shall we worship in spirit and in truth?” and does Scripture tell us how, in a definitive manner?

1) what we do not find in Scripture - Observations about Corporate Worship:

- Neither in the OT or NT do we find a full presentation of a worship service.
- Scripture does not give us a set order of worship elements and no listing of the elements of worship in any single place.

- We are not given any set time lengths for a worship service, nor any set proportion of time for any of the elements of worship.
- We are not given any set number of times per day to worship on the Lord's Day.
- We are not given any set number of worship leaders.
- We have no set prayers or lengths of prayers or number of prayers dictated.
- We have no set number of sermons for a service, nor duration specified.
- We have no set number of offerings to receive.
- We have no directives about the choir, whether it is optional or necessary, or even its principle function.
- We have no set list of allowable musical instruments, or whether musical or vocal soloists and ensembles are optional or necessary.
- We have no set proportions of time specified for the various elements, how much for singing, how much for prayers, how much for messages.
- We have no specifications about pulpits or robes.
- We have no OT or NT worship service example or paradigm that displays all the elements we customarily place in a worship service. –
 - So, how do we know whether we are worshiping according to spirit and truth – according to God's design? That is, how can we know if what we do really conforms to God's intentions for his people?
 - How can we believe there is a normative and regulative principle of worship when so much of what we do seems *unregulated*?
- We have no NT church building - having a church building is no part of what God requires of Christ's Church.
 - Consequently, there is no church or sanctuary design that has divine authority or sanction.
 - The only divinely sanctioned worship structures were the tabernacle and temple, designed not for congregational worship but for the offering of propitiatory sacrifices.

2) What we do find in Scripture:

- From the NT and early church history we find certain elements of worship
 - Teaching/preaching of the Scriptures to the body of believers
 - Public Reading of the Scriptures to the body of believers
 - Prayers: praises, confessions, petitions with one another
 - Songs, Hymns and Spiritual songs with one another
 - Tithes and Offerings to the church's ministries
 - Communion and Baptism within the body of believers
 - Ordination and Commissioning from the church to service
 - Sacred vows - connected with sacraments and the body
 - Benedictions/blessings on congregation

Command status of these observations: all of these worship activities presuppose and require the fellowship of believers together and cannot be met apart from the assembly of Christians.

3) The Heavenly Vision of Worship – Creator and Redeemer – the paramount themes

a) Rev 4 – The Creator

Vs 11 - Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

b) Rev 5 – The Redeemer

Vs 9-10: And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."