



Worship the Lord with Gladness

The Point

If you can watch a sermon on YouTube and listen to Christian music through Pandora, why gather for worship? What’s the big deal? What’s the point, and why do we do what we do when we gather for worship? Let’s discover the answers and renew our joyful response to the Lord’s call to worship.

The basic question

A friend asks you, “Why do you go to church?” How do you respond? In other words, when we gather for worship, what is the purpose? Jot down your answer(s) [you may have more than one].

Scriptural examples

Gn 12:8b “Call on” can also be translated “call out.” Was Abram alone? Which of the two “call on” or “call out” was worship? Which was more important?

Ex 15 A quick count: “LORD / he / him” 25x, “you / your” 24x, “I / my” 5x. What does this example of worship tell you?

Dt 31:19; 32:1-43 v1-4 _____
 v5-12 _____
 v13-18 _____
 v19-27 _____
 v28-43 _____

Jdg 5 v10-11 describe the core of Deborah’s song.

2 Sm 22 What appears at first to be a personal song by David ended up as a hymn for all Israel (and for all God’s people of all time) to sing, Psalm 18. Summarize the content of this song, the message David wanted all God’s people to sing.

1 Chr 16:7-36 This song, which David handed over to the Minister of Music and other musicians, was again intended for all God’s people to sing. v8-22 = Ps 105:1-15; v23-33 = Ps 96; v34-36 = Ps 106:1,47-48. Again, what’s the content of the song?

2 Chr 5-7 It took 7 years for Solomon’s crew to build the temple. The last touch was for the ark of the covenant to be put in its place. That was carried out in the midst a huge worship service. The theme song? – 2 Chr 5:13!

Solomon then offered a marvelous dedication prayer, which was really a sermon begging God to forgive all. When he finished, fire from heaven flashed and consumed the sacrificial sheep and cattle (so many “that they could not be recorded or counted” 2 Chr 5:6), the glory of the LORD filled the temple, and all the Israelites worshiped, saying ... 2 Chr 7:3!

Psalms You can read Psalms in 4 hrs. and 28 min. If you do (or if you pause on each one to read and ponder it for 5 days a week for the next 3 years), you will find that even the “Praise the LORD” psalms (e.g. Ps 150) have content that _____

Isaiah's songs (e.g. Is 26; Is 40-66) do the same.

Lk 1:46-55, Lk 1:68-79, and Lk 2:29-32 Some of the songs of the New Testament were personal when first sung but have been in the hearts and on the lips of all God's people ever since. Again, the theme / the content / the message is _____

Lk 2:14 We replicate the song of the angels nearly every worship service. We use different settings so that the *Gloria* does not become "old hat" but makes us think what we are singing, which is ...

Ac 16:25-31 Paul and his companions were arrested in Philippi for healing a demon-possessed slave girl and disrupting the local economy. They were praying and singing hymns. The words and lyrics are not recorded. But what do you suppose the content of their worship was that led the near-suicidal jailer to ask the question in v30?

Re 5:6-12 A vision of worship in heaven for all eternity. What will we be singing?

[For further study, check the content of some of the prayers of Scripture: 1 Sm 2:1-10 (Hannah), 1 Chr 29:10-13 (David), 1 Kgs 8:22-53 (Solomon), 2 Chr 20:21 (Jehoshaphat and the Israelite army), Ezr 9:5-15 (Ezra)]

Quotations worth noting

non beneficium acceptum, sed datum

[see quotations in power point]

Putting this principle into practice

When it comes to evaluating "the point" of biblical worship, which question is "Lutheran"?

- Did we please God today?
- Did we please the people today?
- Did God come to us in the gospel today?

*To your temple I draw near;
Lord, I love to worship here.
Here are sacrament and Word;
Here believers meet their Lord.*

*While I listen to your law,
Fill my soul with holy awe
Till your gospel brings to me
Life and immortality.*

*While your ministers proclaim
Peace and pardon in your name,
Through their voice, by faith, may I
Hear you speaking from the sky.*

*From your house, when I return,
May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say,
"I have walked with God today." (CW 226:1,5-7)*



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"Worship the Lord with Gladness" ... The Pattern