

- When thinking about the topic of glorifying God, our minds probably go straight to the subject of worship. For many of us, worship is that time that we dedicate solely to glorifying God in our prayers, singing, observance of the Lord's Supper, giving, and studying. Hopefully so far this year it has been impressed upon us that the glorification of God isn't reserved only for times of specified worship, but in all things we are to give honor, praise, and respect towards God.
- However, just because God is glorified in every aspect of our life doesn't mean we shouldn't give special attention to those times where we get to assemble and worship and glorify together because these are powerful times of growth for each and everyone of us. We all know that one guy that falls asleep during the worship service, right? Can we say that this person is glorifying God in his slumber? Is he bettered for have been in the worship assembly? Now don't be looking around at anyone here this morning because I'm referring to Eutychus from **Acts 20**. Eutychus fell asleep during the worship assembly and he got something much worse than that sharp elbow to the ribs or a pinch of the arm. He fell out of the building and actually died. Who knows, his might be one reason why most churches don't conduct worship service on the second floor of a building. Thankfully, this story has a good ending and Eutychus was brought back to life by the Apostle Paul.
- There are a couple of observations we can make about this story. First of all and obviously, it's not good to fall asleep while worshipping God. Secondly, I am pretty convinced that God is neither pleased or glorified when we fail to stay awake and focus on Him for the short time that we are together. Our worship assembly is to be glorifying to our God, but we need to recognize that worship is only glorifying when it is done in the God-designed manner. Let's discuss God-Designed Worship this morning. It is the only type of worship that is pleasing and glorifying to God and we need to know how it is accomplished.

I. God is worthy of our worship.

- A. Much like how God is worthy of our glorifying of Him, He is also very much worth our worship towards Him.
 1. Worship is giving to God the reverence and honor that He is worthy of because of who He is and what He has done.
 2. God Himself is certainly wonderful and He is often beyond our comprehension. He is the highest and greatest of beings and He is worthy of our worship.
 3. The Psalmist was certainly aware of God's deserving of worship and praise. (**Psalm 96**)
 4. Because of His Godship, His power, His mercy, and His love God is worthy of our praise, adoration, and worship.
- B. When we worship God in an acceptable manner, God is glorified, and He is pleased.
 1. We must not make the mistake of thinking that God is accepting of just any and every form of worship that is offered to Him, because from the beginning, God has not accepted just anything as proper worship.
 2. Consider the worship offered by Cain and Abel in **Genesis 4**. **V.4** tells us that God had regard or was pleased with Abel's offering, but the same could not be said about Cain's offering. (**v.5**)
 3. Nadab and Abihu were struck down because they offered sacrifices to God that were not acceptable. (**Lev. 10:1-3**)
 4. Jesus makes the point to the Samaritan woman that there would be coming and was already taking place a period of true worshippers. If there can be true worshippers then we must infer that there can be false worshippers. (**John 4:23**)
 5. We must recognize that God is worthy of our worship, but He is only glorified when He is worshipped in an acceptable manner. We will speak to more to this further in the lesson, but for now, let's simply recognize God's worthiness to be worshipped.

II. God designed us to worship.

- A. We are wired to worship.
 1. Paul makes this point to the Athenians in **Acts 17** as he is telling them about the God that they did not know.
 2. God made mankind in such a way that they would seek after something much greater than themselves. (**Acts 17:25-28**)
 3. We sing the song "As the Deer", and we say that our soul longs after God as the deer does for the water. (**Psalm 42:1,2**)
 4. "You alone are my hearts desire and I long to worship you." (As the Deer)
 5. We are designed to worship and seek after that which is greater than we are, and that greatness belongs to God.
- B. We are equipped to worship.
 1. God created humans unlike any other living creature. We alone have the ability to reason and worship God.
 2. He has given us the ability to sing, pray, and reason together from God's Word. No other living thing can "*Sing to the Lord because He has dealt bountifully with me.*" (**Psa. 13:6**)
 3. Nothing else can willingly sacrifice to the Lord to show thanks to His good name. (**Psa. 54:6**)
 4. God created us to worship and He has given us the ability to worship Him. (**Psalm 105:1-4**)
- C. We are directed how to worship.
 1. We must recognize that God has designed us, equipped us, and given us reason to worship Him, but we must also recognize that God has given us a pattern for how we are to worship.
 2. Going back to Jesus and the Samaritan woman. (**John 4:23,24**) Jesus said that true worshippers would worship in spirit and truth. That is how Christians should worship God today, in spirit and truth.

3. Think about what Jesus might have meant by that. Consider the shadows of the Law (burning incense, offering sacrifices, using mechanical instruments). Many of those shadows were very physical in nature and they were commanded by God, but Jesus is saying that soon it won't matter if you worship on this mountain or any other because our worship will be more spiritual (no sacrifices or mechanical instruments) that anything else because we serve a spiritual God. This new covenant of Jesus would be different than the last.
4. So not only will the worship of Christians be much more spiritual in nature, but it must also follow the truth that has been laid down through the authority of Jesus and His inspired Apostles. It must be in spirit and truth.

III. God-designed worship involves 3 key elements.

- A. Those 3 key elements are:
 1. **Intellect-Thinking:** We must know that we are to worship and how God desires for us to worship Him. We must think about what we are doing and not just go about it mindlessly.
 2. **Emotion-Feeling:** Our worship should come from a place of love, gratefulness, respect, and admiration. These emotions should be present as we praise God.
 3. **Action-Doing:** The action of worshipping whether that be singing, praying, commemorating, giving, or studying. These are the ways that we see God's people worshipping in the first century and we must be active in doing these things as well.
- B. There must be a fine balance with these 3 elements within us when it comes to our worship.
 1. Many passages of Scripture show us that these 3 elements must be present, and we see them present in every covenant.
 2. **Genesis 28:12ff** (Jacob's latter dream)
 - Thinking: Jacob had the dream and awoke knowing that God was going to bless Him. (v.16)
 - Feeling: Jacob felt afraid and was in a state of awe over the great power of God. (v.17)
 - Doing: Jacob set up the pillar and made a vow before God. (vv.18-22)
 3. **1 Samuel 12:24** *"Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."* (As Samuel is about to appoint the first king for Israel)
 - Thinking: Consider all He has done for you.
 - Feeling: Fear and serve with all your heart.
 - Doing: Serve Him in truth (worship included).
 4. **Colossians 3:16:** *"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to the Lord."*
 - Thinking: Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you.
 - Feeling: Singing with thankfulness in your hearts to the Lord.
 - Doing: teaching and admonishing one another in psalms hymns and spiritual songs.
 5. When we have these 3 elements not only is our worship to God acceptable, but we have a strong impact on those around us. We are changed for the better because of our worship to God.
 6. God-designed and God-glorifying worship includes all the elements: thinking, feeling, and doing.
- C. When we are not balanced in the characteristics, we begin to drift towards opposing extremes.
 1. We can become emotionalist if we have a too much feeling and not enough thinking.
 - Phillip Keller recognized this in his book "The High Cost of Holiness". He said, *"The devotion to the masses to whatever is spectacular, exciting and highly stimulating to the senses defies description... the Western world is essentially a spectator society in which emotional experience is considered a must for the masses. First of all, the tremendous attraction of sports, theater, politics or other show business draws the masses away from the less sensational spiritual activities. Most moderns consider the church pretty dull and drab. Compared to the high-powered sensationalism of the sports arena or stage or silver screen, the average Christian congregation is considered dead, dead, dead. Many Christian leaders have come to the conclusion that the only possible way to compete with the contemporary world attractions is to adopt their style and methods."*
 - We are not in the business of entertainment, we are in the business of souls and glorifying God in all we do.
 2. Or we could become almost robotic in our worship with a lot of doing, but not allowing our thoughts or emotions to actually allow us to be changed by what we are participating in. (**Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:8,9**)
 3. Our worship must be balanced. We must sing (action) with all of our heart (emotion), but we must do so knowing that our words and actions are approved by God (thinking).
 4. In doing this, our worship will be accepted by God, and He will be glorified in it.

God is worthy to be glorified in all that we do, and we most especially should glorify Him when we gather together to worship Him as God's people. We must recognize that God has created us to seek after and worship Him. We must recognize that true God-designed worship includes our thoughts, our emotions, and our actions. In knowing all of this and putting it into practice God will be glorified and we will be bettered by our worship of Him.