

LESSON 26: DELIGHTING IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

**Intro:**

BIG IDEA: God tells us how to delight & be \_\_\_\_\_ in Him in \_\_\_\_\_.

“Religious worship consists in that homage and honor which we give to God, as a being of infinite perfection; whereby we profess our subjection to, and confidence in him, **as our chief good and only happiness.**” **Robert Shaw**<sup>276</sup>

1. The light of nature shows that there is a God, who has lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and does good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshiping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.

- As Creator, He rules over creation & is \_\_\_\_\_ due to the \_\_\_\_\_ we see in nature.
- While creation calls us to worship, it is unable to tell us \_\_\_\_\_ to worship properly.
- God Himself has \_\_\_\_\_ proper worship in \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation.
- He’s not properly worshiped in ways we \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ on our own.
- We are not to worship a visible \_\_\_\_\_ of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment).
- **Context:** Roman Mass introduced \_\_\_\_\_ not commanded by Scripture.
- Lutheran worship: anything not \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.
- England: Book of Common Prayer (anglo-catholic) “the law of the land”.
- Scotland: The Book of Common Worship (Presbyterian). BCP ⇔ BCW
- **Regulative Principle:** God must \_\_\_\_\_ what we do it in Christian worship.
- Scripture regulates the \_\_\_\_\_ of worship.
- Prayers, songs & sermons adhere to biblical doctrine. Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_, #, length.
- Scripture doesn’t mandate a \_\_\_\_\_ or finish time, what we \_\_\_\_\_, language etc.

“(John Calvin) believed that the church’s worship had degenerated to superstition and idolatry because the church’s doctrine had been neglected. He believed that unless sound doctrine informs our worship, our worship will go astray.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>277</sup>

“The wrong kind of worship provokes God’s wrath, not his blessing. We may not do anything we please in God’s awesome presence.” **John Frame**<sup>278</sup>

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<sup>276</sup> Shaw, pp. 213.

<sup>277</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 311.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

“We cannot trust our own imaginations. ... Our finitude and sin disqualify us from making such judgements.” **John Frame**<sup>279</sup>

“Because they have not been taught to think of the worship service as having gospel purposes, people instinctively think of its elements only in terms of personal preference: what makes me feel good, comfortable, or respectful.” **Bryan Chapell**<sup>280</sup>

“But since man’s moral nature is depraved, and his religious instincts perverted, and his relations to God reversed by sin, it is self-evident that an explicit, positive revelation is necessary ...”

**A.A. Hodge**<sup>281</sup>

2. Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and, since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone.

- We are to worship the Holy Trinity, & \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Trinity: Father, Son & Spirit.
- We do not worship \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or anything else in heaven or earth.
- Since the fall, we are unable to worship without a \_\_\_\_\_: Christ.
- Rome differentiated between \_\_\_\_\_ (*latria*) & \_\_\_\_\_ (*doulia*).

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. **1**

**Timothy 2**

- He is the only Mediator because He is the only one who gave Himself as a \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one special part of religious worship, is by God required of all men: and, that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by the help of his Spirit, according to his will, with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance; and, if vocal, in a known tongue.

- Prayer is not just an act of \_\_\_\_\_, private \_\_\_\_\_.
- Prayer is an essential, mandatory part of \_\_\_\_\_ worship.
- We need the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit to pray.
- We pray in the name, or \_\_\_\_\_, of the Son who is our Mediator.
- Prayer, if out loud, is to be in a \_\_\_\_\_ language.
- They clearly rejected the Roman practice of worshipping in \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 14:10-11).

<sup>278</sup> Frame, John. *Worship in Spirit and Truth: A Refreshing Study of the Principles and Practice of Biblical Worship*. Philipsburg, P&R Publishing. 1996, pp. 38.

<sup>279</sup> Frame, *Worship*, pp. 39.

<sup>280</sup> Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids, Baker. 2009, pp. 21.

<sup>281</sup> Hodge, pp. 271.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

What of these instructions would be pertinent for personal or private devotion too?

Is there anything that isn't pertinent for our personal prayer?

4. Prayer is to be made for things lawful; and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter: but not for the dead, nor for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned the sin unto death.

- The Word of God regulates the \_\_\_\_\_ we pray for.
- We are to pray for all sorts of \_\_\_\_\_: rulers, friends, enemies, employees etc.
- We are to only pray for \_\_\_\_\_ people. We don't pray for those who have died.
- Roman Catholicism permits prayers & masses for the \_\_\_\_\_ to release them from \_\_\_\_\_.
- We are not to pray for those who have committed \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.

“... there is a Purgatory, and that the souls there detained are helped by the suffrages of the faithful... but let the bishops take care that the suffrages of the faithful who are living, to wit, the sacrifices of masses, prayers, alms, and other works of piety, which have been wont to be performed for the faithful for the other faithfully departed ...” **Council of Trent**, session 25, *Decree Concerning Purgatory*<sup>282</sup>

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **1 Timothy 2**

“In prayer, as in all worship, we seek what pleases the Lord, not what pleases ourselves.” **John Frame**<sup>283</sup>

5. The reading of the Scriptures with godly fear, the sound preaching and conscionable hearing of the Word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence, singing of psalms with grace in the heart; as also, the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God: beside religious oaths, vows, solemn fastings, and thanksgivings upon special occasions, which are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner.

- Corporate worship includes the \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures.

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<sup>282</sup> Shaff, Vol. 2, pp. 198-9.

<sup>283</sup> Frame, *Worship*, pp. 102.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

- We're to \_\_\_\_\_ w/a desire to obey, to understand & believe it & show reverence.
- The Standards affirmed Exclusive \_\_\_\_\_, singing the Word & only the Word.
- They believe that psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are categories of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Exclusive Psalmody also \_\_\_\_\_ the other songs we find in Scripture.
- Exclusive Psalmody only sings of Christ under \_\_\_\_\_ & types in Psalms.
- Exclusive Psalmody \_\_\_\_\_ the use of instruments as tied to shadows & types.

“To hear the word of God is to meet with God himself. ... where God is, the word is. We should not seek to have an experience with God which bypasses or transcends his word.” **John Frame**<sup>284</sup>  
““When the Bible speaks, God speaks,” Augustine wrote. Calvin additionally believed that when the Word of God is faithfully preached, Jesus still speaks to his church by his Spirit in the hearts of his people.” **Bryan, Chapell**<sup>285</sup>

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.  
**Colossians 3**

- Singing is to be the result of “grace in the heart”; the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Singing is an expression of repentance, \_\_\_\_\_, faith, joy, hope, aspirations etc.
- Ordinary worship includes the \_\_\_\_\_; not reserved for special ‘holy days’.
- \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ were seen to be part of ordinary worship as well.
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to fast.
- Thanksgivings were intended to be a part of our worship on \_\_\_\_\_ occasions.

<sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. **Acts 13**

“To worship is to actively offer a sacrifice of praise and glory and honor to him, to attend to the proclamation of his Word, and to celebrate the sacraments.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>286</sup>  
“The worship of the church communicates the gospel. And, the gospel shapes the worship of the church. ... We cannot honor the gospel and, at the same time, worship in ways that distort it. ... Where the gospel is lost, worship becomes reflective of a dead tradition or an evolving heresy.”  
**Bryan Chapell**<sup>287</sup>

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<sup>284</sup> Frame, *Worship*, pp. 90.

<sup>285</sup> Chapell, pp. 51.

<sup>286</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 312.

<sup>287</sup> Chapell, pp. 100-101.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

6. Neither prayer, nor any other part of religious worship, is now, under the gospel, either tied unto, or made more acceptable by any place in which it is performed, or towards which it is directed: but God is to be worshiped everywhere, in spirit and truth; as, in private families daily, and in secret, each one by himself; so, more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly or willfully to be neglected, or forsaken, when God, by his Word or providence, calls thereunto.

- Our worship is not tied to particular “\_\_\_\_\_”, like the Temple.
- God is to be worshiped \_\_\_\_\_, in spirit and \_\_\_\_\_, consciously.
- They affirmed daily \_\_\_\_\_ worship and personal devotions as essential for us.
- Public worship is vital to our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
- At times we may be providentially \_\_\_\_\_ (illness) from attending.

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. **Hebrews 10**

7. As it is the law of nature, that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in his Word, by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment binding all men in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven, for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto him: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week; and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's day, and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath.

- The Sabbath seems to be a \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance and part of the \_\_\_\_\_ law.
- How they celebrated the Sabbath & Sabbaths is found in the \_\_\_\_\_ law.
- Creation Ordinance → Mosaic/Ceremonial Application → Christ → Church Application
- Calvin said it could be any day, but should be \_\_\_\_\_ for people's use.<sup>288</sup>
- The Puritans understood “pleasure” to include \_\_\_\_\_ and prohibited them.

“It is one of those commands that were spoken by the voice of God himself, that were twice written on tables of stone by the finger of God, and that were laid up in the ark of the covenant.”

**Robert Shaw**<sup>289</sup>

<sup>13</sup> “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,  
from doing your **pleasure** on my holy day,  
and call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;

<sup>288</sup> See *Calvin and the Sabbath: The Controversy of Applying the Fourth Commandment* by Richard Gaffin.

<sup>289</sup> Shaw, pp. 230.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
or seeking **your own pleasure**, or talking idly;  
<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” **Isaiah 58**

“The Westminster divines speak of the Sabbath in terms of moral and positive law, and, in their judgment (unlike that of Augustine), the Sabbath day is part of the moral law of the Old Testament.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>290</sup>

8. This Sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering of their common affairs beforehand, do not only observe an holy rest, all the day, from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations, but also are taken up, the whole time, in the public and private exercises of his worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.

- They advocate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord’s Day; no common affairs interfere.
- It would be \_\_\_\_\_ to take a break from household \_\_\_\_\_ one day a week.
- The “holy rest” puts the focus on \_\_\_\_\_. But \_\_\_\_\_ can be a great thing.
- It should include \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ worship.
- It is a good opportunity to engage in works or duties of \_\_\_\_\_.

“Both the Continental believers and the Puritans believed that the seventh day was to be observed, but they differed as to *how* it was to be observed.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>291</sup>

“... the same proportion of time that we spend in our own works on the other days should be devoted on Sabbath to the public or private exercises of God’s worship.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>292</sup>

“As to the observance of the Christian Sabbath, the obvious general rule is, that it is to be observed, 1. Not in the spirit of the law, which Christ condemns, but in the holy and free spirit of the gospel, 2. In accordance with the ends for which it is instituted...” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>293</sup>

How does this help you to glorify and enjoy God?

Conclusion:

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<sup>290</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 338.

<sup>291</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 340.

<sup>292</sup> Shaw, pp. 233.

<sup>293</sup> Hodge, pp. 283.