

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

October 9, 2016

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

God Keeps Covenant

Nehemiah 9:32-33: "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who dost keep covenant and lovingkindness, do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before Thee, which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and on all Thy people, from the days of the kings of Assyria to this day. However, Thou art just in all that has come upon us; for Thou hast dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross**

Ps. 89:1-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #32, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

We Confess Our Sin

Psalms 32:1-7

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

When I kept silent about our sin, our body wasted away through our groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; our vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.

I acknowledged our sin to You, and our iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess our transgressions to the Lord"; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of our sin.

Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when Thou mayest be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not reach him. Thou art our hiding place; Thou dost preserve me from trouble; Thou dost surround me with songs of deliverance.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #521, "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication**

Gen. 17:9-14

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #447, "Christ For The World We Sing"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

2 Cor. 4:5-7

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #710, "God Of Our Fathers"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.



## How ought we to respond to such a Being?

**\*Point:** What makes gratitude Biblical depends on what you do with God's blessings. If you reject or forget them, you are deemed to be ungrateful. But if you recognize them and give due appreciation to God for them, you exercise Biblical gratitude!

### In Everything, v. 18a

#### Does this verse mean we are called to give thanks *FOR* everything?

Gordon Fee wrote, "It is especially important to note that the modifier in this case does not say "for all things," but "in all circumstances." It is neither reasonable nor biblical piety to imagine that God wishes his children to be thankful for all things that befall them, good or ill." (*The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians*. NICNT, p. 215)

#### Think of Joseph (Gen. 37:14, 28; 39:4-5; 41:40; 50:19-21)...

#### \*Point

1. This is the heart of Gratitude. When we come to see God's hand in all things- and so His work, His sovereign care, His love, grace, and compassion- we learn to give thanks in all things. To do otherwise as Christians is to plunge ourselves into spiritual depression (cf. Ps. 78)...
  - a. How could God's people rebel against God after the Lord gave them so much Redemptive care? (cf. Ps. 78:10-11, 41-42)...
  - b. Rather than recognizing and so appreciating God's many blessings, the people of God during the time of the Exodus took their eyes off of the Lord and placed them on the things in their life which fell short of their wants, desires, and expectations. When they did this, they grieved God, rebelled against His goodness, and so fell into grumbling and complaining!
2. The health of our walk with Christ depends largely on whether or not we celebrate God's blessings. That is why when it came to a Healthy Relationship with God, Paul lastly exhorted the Thessalonians, "In everything give thanks!" This is one of the two most important virtues we can possess as children of God (the other being love for God)!

#### \*Where We Live

1. Are God's blessing a cause of celebration for you? Or has your heart grown cold/indifferent to God and His grace?
2. How do we cultivate a heart of gratitude? Look at the text before us... we have in this passage the key when it comes to a grateful disposition.