

Worship Essentials – Lecture #2

Last week we looked at some misconceptions (Worship is not merely music or occasional) and some basic biblical terms for worship (Bowling down; Service) as background...

Key Principles

"After we have walked through the principles in a future session, ... we will consider **some implications** from these principles **for the practice of worship** in the church today."

Principle #1: Worship always involves both revelation and response

- A. Definition - Our faithful response to God's gracious revelation.
"Worship is initiated by God, who graciously reveals himself to us, and we respond in faithful ways."

Last week – "**Worship is bowing all that we are before all that God is**"
(Revelation-Response is built-in)

"Worship is our faithful response to God's gracious revelation."

"This is what worship ought to be, not necessarily a description of where we are in our present experiences of worship..." (This is what God is transforming us into...)

- B. Key Bible Texts

1. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

"Deuteronomy 6:4, of course, is often called the Shema, from the Hebrew; the first word in that Hebrew sentence in Deuteronomy 4 is the Hebrew imperative Shema. 'Listen, Shema Israel,' ... 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one, the Lord is one.'"

"This is understood to be a basic revelation about the one true God. He is the Lord, He is one..."

"Deuteronomy 6:5, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength.' Revelation-response, see how these work together?"

2. Romans 12:1

What Mercies? – "Romans 1-11 are all an unfolding of God's profound mercy toward us."

3. Isaiah 6:1-8

- a. **Revelation** (Holiness of God) and **Response** ("Woe is me!" -- Sinfulness of Man)
- b. **Revelation** (mercy in action; God acts on behalf of the sinner) and **Response** (humbly receives the mercy of God)
- c. **Revelation** (reveals his will; work to be done) and **Response** ("Here am I. Send me." Romans 12:1; Luke 1:38)

Why is Isaiah's response not normative for worshippers (even though it should be)?

"I often wonder why it is that, on Sundays, after the Word has been proclaimed, we do not have more people standing up, jumping on the pew at the end of the service, and shouting out to the Lord, 'Here am I, send me.' Why don't we have that? That should be the normative response of a worshiper—offering our bodies as living sacrifices—'Here am I, send me.'"

"All of this suggests to me that, where the revelation is deficient or unclear, it is likely that the response will also be deficient, fuzzy, unclear."

"So **principle #1** about worship: Every worship encounter is an encounter of revelation–response. God always initiates. Somehow He has revealed Himself to us and our job is to respond as faithfully as we know how."