

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

June 28, 2015

*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 is our Helper

Deuteronomy 33:26-29: "There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to your help, and through the skies in His majesty. The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms; and He drove out the enemy from before you, and said, 'Destroy!' So Israel dwells in security, the fountain of Jacob secluded, in a land of grain and new wine; His heavens also drop down dew. Blessed are you, O Israel; who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, who is the shield of your help, and the sword of your majesty! So your enemies shall cringe before you, and you shall tread upon their high places."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 105:1-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #198, "Lift Up Your Heads"

*Based on Psalm 24*

We Confess Our Sin

O Lord Jesus Christ! From the depths of woe we raise the voice of lamentation. Turn a gracious ear to us and hear our prayer. If You should mark our sin, who could stand before You? It is only by grace that we come to You. It is grace and grace alone that can wash away our sin! Alas! Our works are all in vain. No man can glory in Your sight; all must alike confess Your greatness, and live alone by mercy.

Therefore our trust is in You, O Lord, and not in our own merit; on Christ our soul shall rest, His Word only can uphold our fainting spirit. Your promised mercy is our strength, our comfort, and our support; we wait for it with patience.

Though our sins are great and our woes speak harm, Your grace abounds all the more; Your helping love knows no limit. Oh Jesus, You are true and good, forgive us our multitude of sin. Free us from all sin and sorrow. In Your

name we pray. Amen! *(Taken from Trinity Hymnal #55)*

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #690, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Jer. 29:12-13

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #402, "Abide With Me"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Rom. 12:2

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.

**A Healthy Response to Sin**  
1 Samuel 12:19-25  
*Study Notes for June 28, 2015*

**I. Introduction**

**II. A Healthy Response to Sin, 1 Sam. 12:19-25.**

**A. The Background, Deut. 17:14-15a; 1 Sam. 8:1-9.**

**Deut. 17:14-15a**

Prior to the time when God's people entered into the Promised Land at the end of the wilderness wandering, Moses instructed the people regarding a future king...

At this point in Redemptive History, we note three things (1) During the era of Moses God's people were organized into a Theocratic Nation. IOW, they didn't cease being what they were under Abraham; they became that which they were not before... a Nation! (2) For the first 400 years of its existence, this nation had no earthly king. It was ruled directly by God through prophets and judges. This was the only time there was "one nation under God." (3) God did NOT intend for the nation's oversight to remain exclusively with judges and prophets. As evidenced by Deut. 17, at the formation of the nation Moses spoke of God's will in setting an earthly king over the nation. However, THE qualification is that this king had to be a man of God's choosing!

**1 Sam. 8:1-9**

Four hundred years into their history as a nation, the people of God, as anticipated by Moses, ask for a king. Yet their request clearly involved a significant amount of sin (cf. v. 7)...

...the root of the nation's request for a king was a rejection of God's authority over them! As such, they no longer wanted to live as "one nation under God." They wanted the "freedom" and "security" which they thought they saw in the nations.

So after Samuel explained the horrible abuse and sacrifice that would accompany the people's choice for a king (such things like a draft, slavery, the loss of one's sons AND daughters, taxes, corvée labor, and much, much more), the people's response is shocking (1 Sam. 8:19-20)...

The nation got their king- a man who according to the text was a genetic freak in his day: good looking, tall, handsome, affable... the people of God rather predictably were smitten! The only problem was, Saul clearly lacked a heart for God- he was blind to the things of the Lord (cf. 1 Sam. 9:6-10)!

First Sam. 9-11 goes on to demonstrate how bad a choice the people made in selecting Saul as their king- a sin which the nation itself eventually would come to see all too well (which is the basis of our study this morning). Yet 1 Sam. 9-11 also indicates that a corner had been turned... according to God's perfect will, the nation had entered into the era of an earthly king; there was no going back!

**B. The Admission, 1 Sam. 12:19.**

To make sense of the people's response, it is helpful to understand that it is May- the dry season in Israel when wheat was ready for harvest in Israel; it normally did not rain at this time (cf. v. 17)...

Robert Bergen wrote of this, "Why were the Israelites so moved by this event? Because they understood this disruption of the God-ordained pattern for the natural world to mirror Israel's disruption of the God-ordained pattern of relationship that was to exist between the nation and the Lord. As Israel moved out of her proper relational orbit with the Lord, the Lord had ordained that nature would move out of its proper orbit with the people (cf. Lev 26:19-22; Deut 28:18, 22-24)." (*1, 2 Samuel*, NAC, p. 144).

With this, notice the emphasis in this passage; it is on "WE" and so the people's personal responsibility for their sin. This is rather incredible! From this we see a crucial element to A Healthy Response to Sin- the taking of responsibility for one's sin...

1 John 1:9

The word "confess" (ὁμολογέω [*homologeō*]) literally means, "to speak the same." To speak the same

as with whom? The obvious answer is, “as with God!” What does God say about our sin? Three things: (1) What we’ve done is wrong, Col. 3:25; 2 Sam. 24:17; Job 36:22-23, (2) it ultimately is against God and so has offended Him (Ps. 51:4)- think of David’s words, “...against thee, thee only have I sinned,” (3) It is our fault, Rom. 7:14-23.

In my experience we don’t have a hard time with the first two: (1) admitting that what we’ve done is wrong and (2) that it ultimately is against God. It is third element that we so often miss!...

...such was NOT the case here in Samuel. This crucial element was at the forefront of the people’s repentance...

**C. The Calling, 1 Sam. 12:20-25.**

**a. We Must Not Fear, vv. 20a, 22.**

Fear: the word used here for “fear” is  $\text{yārē}^{\prime}$  (yārē’)...

If we are saved and know forgiveness, why do we fear when we sin? The answer goes back to our default programming (Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 10:2-3)...

Yet what is the divine response, “Do not fear!”... Samuel/God here has one solid principle in mind for why there no longer can be fear for the Christian. Skip down to 1 Sam. 12:22...

...when it comes to salvation there is more going on than just you!...

So why is it that having been forgiven our sin we no longer, ever could be charged with sin? Simply stated here, unlike us God is a Being of integrity. If He has forgiven all our sin, then He never, could ever hold us accountable to them again: past, present, or future (2 Tim. 2:13; Rom. 8:2)!...

**b. We Must Not Forfeit Kingdom Service, vv. 20b, 24.**

Oft-times the sinning Christian is the fearing Christian who believes that on account of their recent sin, (1) they have blown it before God, (2) the Lord is hugely displeased, and (3) there is nothing they can do in the moment to change it. So what do they do? They withdraw from life and ministry!...

...ironically, these are the very things we need most after we’ve confessed our sin (cf. Rev. 2:5a; Lk. 22:32b; 1 Sam. 12:24)...

**c. We Must Not Follow the Sinful Proclivity of the Heart, vv. 21, 25.**

Our world hates a vacuum! And so if you withdraw from ministry/life on account of your sin, you WILL give yourself to something else. And more often than not, that “something else” will NOT be good. Samuel identified it here as: (1) futile things (2) which cannot profit!

We are dealing here with human nature. What do we typically do when we’ve blown the diet? We think, “*My perfect record is destroyed which means whatever else I eat today can’t destroy it any more than it already is!*” So what do we do? We indulge all the more! Sadly this is how many in the body of Christ respond to sin... they give themselves to it and so that which is empty and futile!

Fresno State

I have taken this advice to heart when it comes to my response to sin in my own life. The temptation is always there, having blown it, just to give yourself to sin. Yet, do you understand that would allow your previous transgression to beat you twice and so further dishonor God?! Truly, sinful indulgences, though forgivable if you are saved, bring with them a heavy toll (1 Tim. 5:6; Prov. 5:22; 1 Sam. 12:25)...