

## **DEVOTE YOURSELF TO WORSHIPPING WELL**

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Psalm 66

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July 16, 2023

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### **INTRODUCTION: PRETENSE OF WORSHIP**

It is difficult to truly worship God.

? What is true worship?

? How can we tell if we are truly worshipping God?

? What are the consequences if we fail to worship God well.

In Psalm 66, we are given a definition and example of true worship, a warning and a promise.

**Proposition:** God hears the prayer and extends His grace to the one who worships Him well (skillfully, carefully, thoroughly, effectively, competently).

? What does it mean to worship God well?

### **I. THE COMPONENTS OF TRUE WORSHIP**

#### **A. JOYFUL SHOUTING, V. 1**

This is a religious impulse coming from deep within that expresses itself outwardly.

#### **Psalm 86:12**

I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever.

#### **Matthew 22:37**

And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul, and with all your mind."

### **Isaiah 29:13**

Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of traditions learned by rote.

## **B. GLORIOUS PRAISE, V. 2**

### **Glory**

The expressed quality(ies) of someone or something.

### **Isaiah 12:5**

Praise the LORD in song for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth.

#### **1. What He Has Done, v. 3**

### **Exodus 34:10**

The God said, "Behold, I am going to make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the LORD, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.

### **Zephaniah 2:11**

The Lord will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

#### **2. Who He Is, v. 4**

Name in the Bible refers not just to what we call someone, but what is true about them.

Philippians 2:9-11

We should give substance to our worship.

We should be excited about who God is because of who He is and not because of who I am.

## **C. SIDE TRUTHS ABOUT WORSHIP**

### **1. Worship Can Be To God**

## 2. Worship Can Be About God To Others

True Worship is from the heart.

True Worship selflessly acknowledges the greatness of God, both what He's done and who He is.

## II. CASES OF TRUE WORSHIP

### A. COME AND SEE THE WORKS OF GOD, VV. 5-7

#### 1. What God Did

- a. He dried the Red Sea
- b. He destroyed the Egyptian Army

#### 2. Who God Is

- a. He rules
- b. He keeps watch

**How we should worship:**

### B. BLESS OUR GOD, VV. 8-12

#### **Bless**

To empower or ascribe power

? What is God's ability here?

#### **James 1:2-4**

Consider it all joy, my brethren when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

## C. COME AND HEAR, VV. 13-17

Worship is both personal and corporate.

1. I Will Pay My Vows (Personal)
2. I Will Tell Everyone What God Has Done (Corporate)

## III. CONSEQUENCES OF WORSHIP

### A. IF I REGARD INIQUITY IN MY HEART

- a. My prayers won't be heard
- b. I won't experience grace in the moment.

### B. BUT I DID WORSHIP WELL

## CONCLUSION: THE HEART OF WORSHIP

True worship consists of having the right focus (God not me), saying the right words, having the right heart.

Worship takes preparation and concentration.

## APPLICATION

- ? How much time do you take to prepare yourself for worship?
- ? How attentive are you to how you worship?