

**Responding to Worship:  
Serving God for the Salvation of the Nations  
Worship Matters!  
Palmetto Baptist Church  
Summer Series 2023**

**Texts: Psalm 97:1-9; Romans 15:5-16; Romans 12:1-2**

*Psalm 97:1-9*

*The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! <sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. <sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. <sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth. <sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. <sup>7</sup> All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods! <sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord. <sup>9</sup> For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.*

*Romans 15:5-16*

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup> And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

*<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 12:1-2*

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Five Goals for the Series:

- *That joyful worship would fuel our glad service to God as a church.*
- *That thankful worship would be our response to the grand story God tells in the Bible about His glory.*
- *That our corporate worship would both glorify God and help us intentionally magnify His beauty to the nations around us.*
- *That our personal participation in gathered worship would transform us into the likeness of the One we worship each week.*
- *That we would see worship as so important that each of us would give it our spiritual focus and intentional engagement each week.*

So, as we close our series, what are we to do with all of this powerful, inspired truth God has given us about gathered worship?

Three texts provide instruction designed to direct our thinking and shape our living so, as we respond intentionally and appropriately, we will accomplish God's larger purpose for our gathered worship.

First, Psalm 97 reminds us that God has an ultimate objective for the worship He commands and enables from His people.

Second, Romans 15:14-16 explains how this purpose will be accomplished.

Finally, Romans 12:1-2 reveals the response that will be required of each of us as ministers of the gospel of God in our priestly service to take worship to the nations around us!

With this backdrop in place, there are five important spiritual realities Paul wove into these two familiar verses that are foundational to the success of our mission to take worship to the world!

## I. The Penetrating Appeal

*I appeal to you therefore brothers . . .*

- A. The Nature of the Appeal – “*I appeal*”
  - B. The Parameters of the Appeal – “*brothers*”
  - C. The Indispensable Realities behind the Appeal – “*therefore*”
- II. The Piercing Objective – Discerning and Doing the Will of God.

*. . . that you may discern what is the will of God . . .*

- A. The Description of God’s Will
    - It is spiritually beneficial to you and to others – “good.”
    - It is morally right and spiritually proper – “acceptable.”
    - It is fully and completely aligned with and compliant to God’s Word – “perfect.”
  - B. The Provisions from God for Discerning and Doing God’s Will
    - A new mind – regenerated life
    - A new power – divine enablement
- III. The Personal Requirement

*. . . to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

Whatever discerning and doing God’s will entails, Paul states that we are to do it with our physical body so that it is presented to God as

- A. a living sacrifice – one that is intentionally and consistently devoted to God!
- B. a holy sacrifice – devoted to God’s exclusive use.
- C. an acceptable sacrifice – morally and spiritually pleasing to God.

IV. The Prescribed Means

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*

- A. We must remove our heart from the fallen world that surrounds and shapes us.
- B. We must transform our life by the renewing of our mind through God’s Word (12:2).

V. The Powerful Motivation for Christian Worship – the Mercies of God!

*. . . by the mercies of God.*

Conclusion: Three important questions we must each answer:

*Am I willing to let God do what He pleases with my life, or have I reserved my life for my use and for my pleasure?*

*Am I willing to live a life of unreserved, unrestrained worship of the God who extended such mercy to me so that those around me might come to know Him and share in those rich mercies?*

- Am I willing to live a beautiful life so that when others see my good works they glorify my Heavenly Father?
- Am I willing to endure suffering so that others may benefit from the fresh mercy that sustains me in my grief and pain?
- Am I willing to die a grace-filled death so that others may taste and receive life from God that never ends?

*Am I willing to let God use my body the way Christ let God use His body to bring others to saving grace and eternal life as true worshippers of the God I worship when we gather each week?*