

# Come, Let Us Worship And Bow Down

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Psalm 95

A couple of months ago I brought a message of Jesus enduring the shame of the cross with joy. Ed brought a message that we should look at the Communion Table as a celebration of all that Jesus death has done for us. This morning I'd like us to remember the Gift of the Father in the gracious giving of his own Son to suffer for your and my sins and restoring us to himself. We should experience a glad joy ourselves knowing the rest that comes from the gospel today and the future rest we will have when we reach our final destination – Heaven!

A little boy asked his father what was the highest number he had ever counted. Replying that he didn't know, the father asked his son his highest number. It was 973.

"Why did you stop there?" wondered the father.

"Because church was over."

It is a shame that we can make a worship service a boring exercise. Are any of you are "clock watchers?" "Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving!" "Come, let us worship and bow down!"

Psalm 95 is a call to worship.

Gathering for worship is not a new thing.

It has been done by Believers for 2000 years. It has been done by the Jewish people for many centuries longer than that! The Psalmist was inviting his fellow Jews to true worship. The Psalmist is also inviting us to true worship.

If we are going to worship together, we should do it in a way that pleases God. So, the Psalmist invites us to come!

We are to come to worship in 5 ways- Psalm 95

COME JOYFULLY – ✓Vs. 1 "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!"

The Jewish religion is a joyful religion. Christianity is a joyful religion.

Yes, there are times of sorrow. Yes, there are times for repentance. Yes, there are times to grieve.

But...

Overall, Christianity is a faith of joy.

It is a joy to know the God of the universe personally.

It is a joy to come before God in the name of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a joy that God encourages us to come to Him. He's not standoffish.

It is a joy that our sins are forgiven.

It is a joy that we have eternal life.

It is a joy that He will never leave or forsake us.

We are told to come with singing. We are told to come with shouting, a joyful noise.

✓ "Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody to the Lord in your heart," Ephesians 5:19, ESV

Our outward worship should be an expression of what is going on in our hearts!

Worship is a privilege. We should be joyful in that privilege.

Notice who we are worshipping! We are worshipping the LORD – the great "I AM"

We are worshipping the "rock of our salvation".

A rock cannot be moved. Our salvation as Christians is "rock solid"! When Jesus said, "On this rock I will build my church," the rock that He was referring to was Himself. It has been said that "I go to the Rock for my salvation; I go to the stone that the builders rejected; I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me; When the earth all around me is sinking sand; On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand; When I need a shelter, when I need a friend, I go to the Rock"

COME THANKFULLY – ✓ Vs. 2 "Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"

There are people I only hear from if they want something. Do we know people like that?

When does God hear from us? And when God does hear from us, do we come with a thankful heart for all that he's already done? Do we only celebrate Thanksgiving one day a year or is it a daily habit of showing your gratitude to Him for all your blessings?

Do we begin our approach to the “throne of grace” with a thankful heart? ✓ “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

Why is thanksgiving important?

Remember that God has supplied in the past.

Submit to God’s will in the present

Trust in God for the future

COME KNOWLEDGEABLY – Vss. 3-5

The more we know about God, and the better we know God, the more joyful and thankful we will be when we come into his presence.

✓ Vs. 3 – “For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” There are so many ways that God is a great God, But I think that two of the greatest things about our God are His holiness and His omnipotence.

God is great because He is holy. He is totally set apart from all that is evil, wrong, and wicked in this world. This puts God in a league of His own. God is holy, and therefore worthy of our worship. ✓ “Let them praise your great and awesome name—Holy is he!” “Exalt the LORD our God, worship at his footstool! Holy is he!” Psalm 99:3, 5

God is almighty, omnipotent. ✓ “O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?” Psalm 89:8

✓ Vs. 4 – “In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.” God is in control of the deepest places in the earth, some of which man has never been to. God is also in control of the highest mountain peaks.

✓ Vs. 5 – “The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.” God made the sea and everything in it. God made the dry land and everything in it. “The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” Psalm 19:1

COME REVERENTLY – Vss. 6-7

✓ Vs. 6 – Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker

When we worship we give honor and glory to God.

The word “worship” in Hebrew means to prostrate oneself- to bow and kneel. When we are reverent, we are humbling ourselves before God. Around here we don’t literally kneel when we pray or worship. But we do bow our heads and hearts before Him.

✓Vs. 7 "For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

Vs. 7 tells us why we should show reverence to God. The Lord is our God. We reverence what we worship. If God is truly our God, we will reverence Him. As we think of the finished work of the Cross this morning we can be thankful for the shed blood of Christ. ✓Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus, let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe." Hebrews 12:28.

Reverence means mingled fear and love which constitute the worship of man toward God; the OT places its emphasis on the fear, the NT ... on the love, though there was love in the fear of God's saints then, as there must be fear in their love now.

Also notice that we should reverence God because we are the people in his pasture, and thus, the sheep of his hand, or "under his care". ✓"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalm 23:1

COME REPENTANTLY – Vss. 8-11

In spite of this great invitation to come and worship, there is also a warning and an abrupt warning at that. This warning also calls us to repentance.

Vs. 8 – ✓Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness." If we will hear God's voice calling us to worship Him, (Vs. 7), let's not harden our hearts.

Something that is hardened is not soft and pliable, not flexible, and not moldable, it is stubborn, a stumbling block and stiff necked.

Hearing the Word of God, obeying it, and applying it to our lives, will make us constantly be repentant of the sins that God reveals to us. This will make us pliable, moldable in God's hands.

Failure to obey God's Word and failure to believe God will lead to harden hearts.

When the children of Israel were recently out of Egypt and headed for the Promised Land they came to a place called Rephidim (Exodus 17). There was no water there. The people complained against Moses and God instead of trusting God. Moses was told by God to strike a rock and water came out of the rock. The place was called Massah and Meribah, or in English, test and quarreled. They tested God's patience with their unbelief and quarreled with Moses.

✓Vs. 9 – "when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work." This is one example of what went on during the time of Israel's wilderness wanderings.

They were constantly testing and proving God, although they had constantly seen God's miracles in Egypt and in the wilderness. Their ultimate unbelief was shown when 12 spies checked out the Promised Land. Ten of them brought a bad report of the Land God wanted them to enter. Two spies, Joshua and Caleb believed that God would give them victory in the land.

The Children of Israel however griped and complained, and even wanted to return to the bondage of Egypt. The end result was 40 years of wandering. All the adults except Caleb and Joshua died in the wilderness because of their unbelief. Their children entered the promised land.

Israel's bottom line problem was unbelief.

✓ Vs. 10 – "For forty years I loathed that generation and said "They are a people that go astray in their heart, and have not known my ways."" God was grieved with this generation because they erred in their hearts and did not know God's ways. Should they have believed? Yes! They saw so many miracles.

Should they have known God's Ways? Yes! Moses was teaching them.

✓ Vs. 11 – "Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest." Because of their unbelief these people never entered the rest of the Promised Land.

The Psalmist is telling us not to be like these people!

When it comes to worshipping God, don't be stubborn. Don't be hard hearted.

Worship God by believing what he says and doing it!

Repent of those things that keep us from entering Spiritual rest!

"And to whom did He swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So, we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief." Hebrews 3:18, 19.

True worship involves resting in God. Turn away from anything that is keeping us from true worship. ✓ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other..." Matthew 6:24

Trying to worship God and trying to hold on to your own selfish ways is like a man trying to keep two wives. Besides being illegal and against God's will, it just doesn't work! One will be loved more than the other and neither will be happy!

Are you grumbling or complaining today? Come to the Table this morning and find rest for your soul as you contemplate the Gift of God that saves your soul. ✓ "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him, should not perish but have

eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." John 3:16, 17

Jesus went willingly to the cross where he suffered, died and rose again for you. As we recently learned from James that ✓ "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." Have you accepted this Gift? If not, why not ask Jesus to come into your life today! You may not have tomorrow.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper is one of the most significant things Christians do together. Whether they gather around the Lord's table weekly, monthly or every few months, followers of Christ proclaim that only in Jesus can we hope to receive forgiveness and grace to live as he did. We do this to remember all that Christ has done for us.

Thinking about the past, of course, is nothing new. But in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives his people a gift that does more than let us look back and remember. By proclaiming Jesus' death each time we celebrate the Supper, we also look forward and upward as we declare the ongoing power of Jesus' death for his people today and forever.

Jesus offers his people a new kind of memory. Our salvation begins in the past, at the cross. But Christ continues to nourish believers with his crucified body and shed blood. Just as a daily meal gives us strength for our physical life, so also the regular celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection nourishes the spiritual lives of all who have faith in Christ. This is the "new covenant" the promise of God to strengthen believers with himself so that they can serve him faithfully.