

Sunday August 13th, 2017

150 FOR CANADA'S 150TH

FINDING SIGNIFICANCE IN WORSHIP

Ephesians 5:19 – **Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.**

“The Psalms were a part of the ordinary life of the Israelites, and an integral part of Israel’s worship, both corporate and individual. Some Psalms began as works of private devotion, while others were designed for the purpose of public worship. In the end, however, the Psalms always lead people to the worship of the Living God.” Guthrie – pg 63

Jeremiah 13:11 – **I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.**

Psalms 95:1 - **Sing joyful songs to the Lord! Praise the mighty rock where we are safe.**

Question # 1 – Why Worship the True and Living God?

a. Worship **IDENTIFIES** who we are.

b. Worship **IGNITES** our faith.

Hebrews 10: 24-25 - ²⁴ We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things. ²⁵ Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer.

c. Worship **INTERCONNECTS** us

d. Worship **INCREASES** our intimacy with God.

Question # 2 – What happens when we Don’t Worship God?

a. We do not **REMEMBER** what God has done.

b. Personal spiritual **DECLINE** is inevitable

“Failure to worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, every siren. Without worship we live manipulated and manipulating lives. We turn, alarmed by specters and soothed by placebos. If there is no centre, there is no circumference. People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustaining purpose.”
Revised Thunder pg 60

c. We end up **WORSHIPPING** something else

Psalm 106:20 – **They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.**

“The heart is an idol-making factory.” Calvin

Matthew 15:19 – **Out of the heart comes evil thoughts...these are what defiles a person.**

Question # 3 – What about Ways of Worship?

Biblical Criteria:

a. Joy of the Lord

* Psalm 112:4 – **Light dawns in the darkness for the upright.**

* Nehemiah 8:10 – **The joy of the Lord is your strength.**

b. In Spirit and in Truth – John 4:23

c. A Right Heart Attitude

* Thankfulness – 95:2

* **OBEDIENCE** and submission to God – 95:6

* Open to the Holy Spirit – 95:8

FOR THIS WEEK:

1. From the summer reading challenge – pick out *Your Favourite Psalm*.

2. Before the summer ends, memorize Philippians 4: 11-13

I am not complaining about having too little. I have learned to be satisfied with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to be poor or to have plenty, and I have lived under all kinds of conditions. I know what it means to be full or to be hungry, to have too much or too little. ¹³ Christ gives me the strength to face anything.

3. Before coming to church next Sunday morning, do a “Heart Check-Up” in readiness for worship:

a. Despite my present circumstances, am I *Joyful* because I have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?

b. Do I have a spirit of Gratitude? Mentally list 10 things / people you are grateful for.

c. Am I willing to respond to the worship and the Word of God with obedience and submission to God?