

Week of March 18, 2012
I Celebrate You, Lord

Passage Outline:

1. Celebrate God in Worship (Ps. 92:1-4)
2. Recognize the Eternal Realities of Worship (Ps. 92:5-9)
3. Enjoy the Benefits of Worship (Ps. 92:10-15)

What This Lesson Is About?

This lesson explores reasons believers should rejoice in the opportunity to worship God and the benefits worship brings to their lives.

How This Lesson Can Impact Your Life?

This lesson can help you worship God with FULL joyfulness.

1. Celebrate God in Worship - Psalm 92:1-4

Psalm 92:1-4

¹ It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, ² to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, ³ to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. ⁴ For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

- A. “It is good to praise the Lord.” It is GOOD for us to focus our worship on God. In his book *The Shape of Faith to Come*, Brad Waggoner observed that 30 percent of worshippers “focus little or not at all on God” during the singing portion of worship services, and nearly half admitted “they [often] just ‘go through the motion of worship.’”¹ If worship is so good and beneficial, why do so many people view it as drudgery?
- B. What about you? Do you merely go through the motions when you worship with your church family? Do you tend to be critical of the music or sermon? Or, does public worship exhilarate you? Do you feel you are actually entering the presence of God the Most High?
- C. “To make music to Your name, Most High.” This is not just to play some instrument, but also to use our voice to make music to our God. How would you describe your singing in worship? What is the focus of your singing? God or the people around you?
- D. Celebratory worship includes music, “the ten-stringed harp and the lyre.”

If you have not already done so, please read the article “**With Lute and Harp: Musical Instruments in the Old Testament**” and the article “**Musical Instruments of the Bible**” in your preparation packet you picked up last Sunday.

- E. Other nations had false gods who were moody, meaning that people never knew whether the gods would smile or frown upon them on any given day.
- F. The Hebrews knew better; they knew only one true God existed and He was a God of love and He would be faithful in loving them. Believers never need worry God will wake up in a bad mood and take it out on them. The psalmist would wake up declaring God’s faithful love in the morning and he would go to bed at night declaring His faithfulness. God’s love and dependability were cause for celebration.

- G. The psalmist connected his gratitude to God's deed and he responded by rejoicing. We also celebrate the Lord for what He has done and is doing in our lives. There is a big difference between the word *happy* and *rejoice*.
- i. Happy has to do with life circumstances and when they proceed in the manner I like, then I am happy.
 - ii. The word joy, from which the word rejoice comes, describes a relationship that I have with God that no circumstances in life will ever change.
- H. As a result he exclaimed, I will shout for joy. Nothing was subdued in his worship and praise for God. He unabashedly rejoiced for what the Lord had done in his life.
- I. He reiterated the cause of his joy was the works of Your hands. Note the use of the plural *works*. God did not just create us and then step out of our lives, leaving us to figure things out for ourselves. He is actively involved in all that we do, particularly when we respond to His presence, worship Him, and seek His counsel in our lives.

What aspects in worship bring out the most emotion for you?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Singing | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumental Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Written Prayers | <input type="checkbox"/> Unwritten Voiced Prayers | <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Prayer times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Testimonies & Sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture Reading |

2. Recognize the Eternal Realities of Worship - Psalm 92:5-9

Psalm 92:5-9

⁵How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts! ⁶The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, ⁷that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed. ⁸But you, O LORD, are exalted forever. ⁹For surely your enemies, O LORD, surely your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered.

- A. Our celebratory worship centers on God's works, having made heaven and earth. The psalmist marveled, how magnificent are Your works.
- B. He also observed how profound God's thoughts were, literally deep. Isaiah made a similar observation in **Isaiah 55:9** ⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts," says the Lord.
- C. Whether God's thoughts are deeper or higher, God thinks of things that never occur to people. Thoughtful people consider this and worship Him.
- D. In sharp contrast, the psalmist turned his attention to the stupid person and to the fool. This is NOT stupid in the sense of ignorant, but because this person never celebrates God in worship simply because he fails to recognize God's majesty and greatness.
- E. The psalmist observed that the wicked often sprout like grass and flourish. However, the psalmist knew that for every spring there is a certain fall and a bitter winter.

- F. But they will be eternally destroyed.
- G. The psalmist summarizes two great eternal realities.
 - i. The LORD is exalted forever in the “highest places” or simply "in the heavens."
 - ii. All who are enemies of the Lord, those who refuse to acknowledge His creative and redemptive works, those who refuse to worship Him and give Him due reverence, will perish and be scattered. While, God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, for He invites them to repent and to live (see Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11) there will come a day when the eternal destruction of the wicked will come to pass.

What receives the most attention and focus in Worship for you?

Rank the following items from 1 (almost never) to 5 (almost always) as to what receives the most attention and focus in your worship.

- ___ What you are going to do after you get home from worship;
- ___ The privilege of being in the Lord’s House to worship Him;
- ___ How the people around you are dressed;
- ___ How blessed you are to have a church family to join with in worship;
- ___ The volume, style, and/or quality of the worship music;
- ___ The meaning and message of the words being sung;
- ___ The pastor’s clothing, haircut, or attitude;
- ___ The words of the message and what God is saying to you through them;

3. Enjoy the Benefits of Worship - Psalm 92:10-15

Psalm 92:10-15

¹⁰ You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine oils have been poured upon me. ¹¹ My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes. ¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; ¹³ planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, ¹⁵ proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

- A. The psalmist notes two specific acts God had done for him personally:
 - i. The Lord had lifted up my horn like that of a wild ox. The Hebrew word picture is that of strength of the horn. The psalmist received God’s strengthening presence.
 - ii. Being anointed with oil speaks to God’s blessing and favor upon his life.
- B. Another benefit of worshipping the Lord and relying on His guidance was the defeat of his enemies.
- C. A third benefit was that the righteous were like palm trees or like the cedars of Lebanon, using these word pictures to express how those who worship God thrived and bore fruit because they were planted in the house of the LORD.
- D. Notice the contrast in that the righteous are compared to the durability of the trees, while the wicked are compared to the vulnerability of grass. Wicked people “sprout like grass,” but righteous people thrive like trees.

- E. The righteous will bear fruit in old age. This is not having children like Abraham and Sarah did. Bearing fruit in old age means that one can witness to other people of how God has walked along with them these many years and has sustained them through them all.

The Witness of Our Older Members

Some in our Church Family have been following the Lord for 80, 90 even 100 years. They have experienced God's guidance, His protection and His countless blessings throughout the many years of their lives. The Psalmist says, "Older believers, you can still bear fruit in your old age." In other words, you can share with the younger members how the Lord has been faithful to you in the good days and in the bad. Older members can share with younger members the struggles and difficulties that God brought them through.

Calling all older members: Pastor Jim would like to video your Witness to how God has guided, supported, strengthened and sustained you throughout your life's journey.

Biblical Truths in Focus

1. Sunday is a great day for Christians to rest from their labors, to gather together, and to celebrate God's activity in their lives.
2. When we focus on eternal realities instead of temporary situations, our hearts fill with joy and gladness for the Lord.
3. Worshiping God and celebrating His works bears rich dividends for believers and benefits them in their daily lives.

1. Brad J. Waggoner, *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and the Future of Discipleship* (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2008), p. 215.