

CP - 8/14/22

Psalms of Summer

Psalms 122 - Worship: What it Is, What It Does

1. Worship is an expression of heartfelt joy. (122:1-2)

* What causes this joy? A realization of grace

* ***A deep realization of grace produces heartfelt joy.***

- Shocking reality to people like us
- By the grace of God, we are accepted into his presence.
- I'm a child of God
- Yes, we still have hard times
- But we can stand in the middle of it all and rejoice that we are redeemed.

*When we understand this, we don't just worship one hour a week.

- We live in a broken world, but we can say we are redeemed.
- Brimming joy that alters everything we face

*Shouldn't be cynical people drudging through just making it

- Because something has changed us

****Because we are in the gates of Jerusalem even on the hardest day***

****Do you know that joy?***

*There are other joys that compete

- I often find greater joy in other places over that I've been accepted by Christ into the gates of Jerusalem
- I'd rather have a boss who likes me or things go according to plan
- ***What joy rules my heart?*** What joy do we live in pursuit of?
- Is it joy of worship that comes from the joy of being in the gates?
- What a tragedy when we grow used to that grace, and it loses its value to us or we think we deserve acceptance!

****I will never have any other standing with God but the standing I'm given by means of his grace.***

2. Worship is recognition of duty. (122:3-5)

*Jerusalem language- celebration

- verses 3-5- Security would be where the king is

*This was his decree that they would worship God.

- ***as was decreed for Israel to give thanks...***
- It was important for Israel to remember they had been redeemed.
- An obligation to offer worship due his name

- Soon after Egypt, they received the law to worship God above all else.
- That law was not something new.
- It's the norm of creation.
- We were created to worship.

*** *Worship is first our identity before it is our activity.***

- *By our nature we are worshippers.* And if we aren't worshipping God, then we are giving worship to something else.
- Our life is structured by worship of our Creator, or our lives are structured in a way where we give worship to the created.
- By some means or way attaching meaning, purpose, and security of our hearts to something...*something owns the allegiance of our heart.*
- We are worshipping God or worshipping the creation.
- We attach the meaning and purpose of our hearts to something.

***Greatest acts of rebellion are not...murder, stealing**

- *Greatest rebellion is failure to worship God*
- Failure to worship God is what leads to the other things.
- Worship of God directs everything else we do in life.
- I look at identity and say....
- I belong to God (emotions, strength, mouth, family, body, money, house, possessions, everything)
- Everything I am and have belongs to God (All my strength, all my being)
- That's worship.
- Nothing belongs to me, but all belongs to him.
- I was given life and breath to live to his glory.
- And everything I've been given was given to point me to his glory.

***We must live with this sense of duty**

- It's his decree - love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength
- "You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)
- John Calvin: "The human heart is a perpetual idol factory."
 - So many things take the place of God
 - We replace God with everything else, then run to him when we face things that are too hard to handle.
 - Idolatry with a tuxedo (Tripp)

Is our life an expression of our identity as a worshiper?

3. Worship results in concern for the things of God. (122:6-7)

***Concern for the things of God**

- The church, God's work, God's people
- Notice the concern in 6-7
- More than the absence of conflict

*Things are the way they were created to be

*Everything is working properly

****When our hearts are controlled by the worship of God, then I care are the work of God, people of God, rule of God, kingdom of God***

- I care about the church because that is where God does his work.
- Has worship of God placed inside our heart a deep concern for the church of Jesus Christ?
- Do we care for our church? For its work? For its mission? Do we love and pray for its leaders? Do we everything we can to invest our time and money so God's work can be done?

*We live in an age of consumeristic Christianity.

- Think about what that means...
 - Go shopping somewhere but have no fundamental commitment - If academy doesn't have it, then I'll go to another sporting goods store.

*We have people responding to the church as consumers

- I like this preacher, but that music.
- I don't like this church, but they have a good kids ministry & better facilities
- Pressure to have the best stuff...
- We give into that pressure

*Consumeristic Christianity is driven by self-worship.

- It's about what I need...
- Rather than driven by a calling to the work of God, people of God, kingdom of God.

*We have been drafted into His work...

- We are driven by calling not consumerism
- I make sacrificial choices to commit myself to God's work in God's church.
- I want to be a part of the work God is doing
- Committed the purpose of the kingdom of God..

****We love the work of God because we worship the God of that work.***

4. Worship results in community. (122:8-9)

*Love of God always produces love for others.

*Peace be within you brothers (8)

*My problem to love others is an actual lack of loving God.

- When God isn't in his rightful place, neither will people be.
- We put worship of self first, and that puts stress on loving others.
- I move to you because I love me... and you have something that will benefit me... and when you don't I no longer need you I'm in this relationship for me... not for you

****When God is in his rightful place and my heart is ruled by him, we will naturally love others and care for their walk with God.***

***Fellowship=== what is it?**

- Do we experience it?
- Is it different than hangin out with friends at a ball game?
- Do we truly love God's people? Do we care about others' relationship with Christ?
- Do we look for way to be encouragement? A burden bearer for others?
- Is our life open and giving to others?
- Is the worship of God the motivating factor?
- Sometimes service is for ourselves?
- The lack of love for others reveals our lack of worship of God

***Have I described your life this morning?**

- Is this joy your joy?
- Is this duty what shapes your life?
- Is this concern your concern that shapes decisions?
- Are you a vibrant part of this loving community?

***God examines our hearts.**

3 big things this Psalm points us to:

1. Points us to the work of Jesus

- No more tabernacle where sacrifices are made.
- The king became the lamb and paid the penalty of sins so that we can receive forgiveness and acceptance with God.
- Have you placed your trust in this one?

2. We don't have to march up a hill to the temple. By the work of Jesus we are now the temple where God dwells.

- wherever we are, God lives within us

3. Everyone here is a pilgrim to the new Jerusalem where God dwells, and we will live with him forever and secure gates. All the struggles will be gone, and we will say forever, "I am redeemed."