

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

November 20, 2022

The Mission of the Church - Lesson 9

Worship (Part 6) / Edification (Part 1): Is Preaching Worship?

We continue looking at the concept of **Worship** in scripture as part of our ongoing series. We've been considering a number of questions related to the worship, and the last three weeks have been focused on specific acts of worship. Today we will look at preaching and consider a critical question.

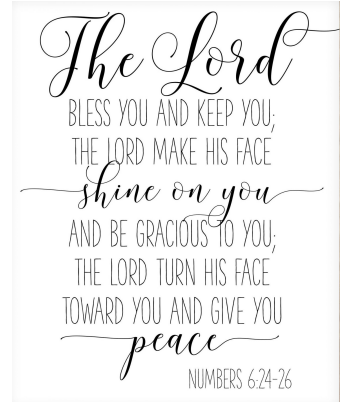
Is Preaching Worship? - The short answer is "it depends". The longer answer is challenging because of the many different forms that preaching takes today. So, before we get to those dependencies, we will first look at a concept related to the nature of God.

R_____ - God has chosen to reveal Himself as the Word and by the Word. It is through God's Word that we learn about God, His Nature, His Plan, and His Son. Consider the following:

- **All scripture is from God** - Paul tells Timothy that it is "breathed out by God." (2 Tim 3:16-17). Peter clearly states that the words of scripture were delivered by God through His Holy Spirit to the men who wrote them down (2 Peter 1:16-21).
- **Jesus was identified as "the Word" (John 1:1)** - He is God's communication to the world. He came with His full authority.
- **Knowledge of salvation comes through the Word** - Paul tells Timothy that God's Word is "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim 3:15). Paul tells the Romans that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Rom 10:17).

If worship is a communion with God, then His Word must be a part of our worship. We must include time with how He has chosen to reveal Himself. I once heard someone describe worship as "seeing and savoring" God. The Word allows us to see so that we can savor.

R_____ - I doubt there is much disagreement about the need to include God's Word in our worship services, but why is preaching the means of communicating the Word that most churches have chosen to use? The reason is rooted in scripture and in the history of worship to God, even going back to the Old Testament. In **Neh 8:1-8**, it is recorded that Ezra read



"Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted."

Check us out on
facebook as
pleasantviewcoc for
upcoming sermon and
bible class topics

*Songs of worship
Words of praise
Fill my heart
Last for days
Reminders of blessings
Of past days delights
Love and expressions
Turn dark into light
To overcome sadness
I remember Your word
My heart fills with gladness
A melody heard*

from the Law to all the people. After he finished reading, the Levites also read from the Law and it says that “they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.” What does this mean? It means that they *preached* to the people. They provided commentary that helped them understand the words of scripture. This practice continued into synagogue worship, where men were given an opportunity to speak regarding scripture. We see this in **Luke 21:16-30**, where Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth and read from the book of Isaiah. After reading, He began speaking to the people. In **Acts 13:13-41**, Paul entered the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia on the Sabbath and addressed the people.

It is also evident from scripture that this practice continued with Christian worship. Paul preached to the church in Troas when they “gathered together to break bread” (**Acts 20:7**). Paul mentioned in **1 Cor 14:26** that when they came together, there was a “lesson” or “revelation.” Paul was also very clear in telling his young proteges Timothy and Titus to preach, and it seems evident this was not just on the street corner. He meant for them to preach to their congregations as well (**2 Tim 3:16-4:2; Titus 2:1-15**).

R_____ - Now back to our key question, “Is preaching worship?” It absolutely can be, but it must start with reverence for the word of God from both the preacher and the students. Everyone must approach scripture as truly being “breathed out by God” (**2 Tim 3:16**). If this is not our foundation and motivation, then preaching cannot be worship.

R_____ - For preaching to be worship, both preacher and student have responsibilities that must be fulfilled. For the preacher, they must 1.) preach sound doctrine from scripture (**Titus 2:1; 2 Tim 4:1-4**), and 2.) preach for edification and not personal promotion (**1 Cor 14:26; Phil 1:15-18**). If these things are missing, then preaching is more like a TED talk or being an after-dinner speaker. This is not worship.

For the student, they must 1.) seek to learn and understand sound doctrine from scripture (**Psalm 1:3; 2 Timothy 4:1-4**), and 2.) look for those who teach sound doctrine (**2 Timothy 4:1-4**). If the student is simply looking to be entertained by the preacher, then it will not be worship.

PRAYER LIST

- **Camille Brosky**, a family friend of the Agees, is recovering from a stroke
- **Judy Cook** is now recuperating at home
- We rejoice with **Kristine Garrett** as her lab results continue to look good
- **Mike Smith** is recovering from heart surgery
- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Bill Gillock** is still dealing with Parkinson’s and the effects of a stroke
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington** has cancer. **Vicki Reed** has been diagnosed with Myeloma as well
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- Continue to pray for: those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller**, **Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, **Gaynell Walker**, **Rosemary Douglas**, **Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (November 20, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Walker
Prayer: M. Reed

WORSHIP

Read: J. Gupton
Wait On Table: J. Baker
Serve: J. Walker, D. Demonbreun
Prayer: E. Walker