**Crossroads International Church Retreat Ron Man November 3-5, 2017 Worship Resources Intl. (**[**www.worr.org**](http://www.worr.org)**)**

**LET US DRAW NEAR**

**Perspectives on Biblical Worship**

**4. Worship in the New Testament**

What are some important similarities and some important differences between Old and New Testament worship?

**Similarities** **Differences**

***A. IMPORTANT THEMES IN NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP***

**1. Inward Worship** (John 4:21-23,24; Romans 1:9)

**2. Whole-life Worship**(Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

**3. Freedom of Form**

The New Testament gives almost nothing in the way of exact prescriptions for how a church is to conduct its public worship services! As John Piper has put it:

“In the New Testament, all the focus is on the reality of the glory of Christ, not the shadow and copy of religious objects and forms. It is stunning how indifferent the New Testament is to such things: there is no authorization in the New Testament for worship buildings, or worship dress, or worship times, or worship music, or worship liturgy or worship size or thirty-five-minute sermons, or Advent poems or choirs or instruments or candles. . . . [We are] free to find place and time and dress and size and music and elements and objects that help us orient radically toward the supremacy of God in Christ... Almost every worship tradition we have is culturally shaped rather than Biblically commanded.”

High Priest

**4. Access**(Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, and Luke 23:45; Hebrews 10:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 1 Timothy 2:5*)*

Priests

People

***B. IMPORTANT NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP PASSAGES***

 **1. Mark 14:3-9 Lavish Worship**

**2. Ephesians 5:18-20/Colossians 3:16**

 ***The Ministry of Song in Ephesians 5:18-20***

1. A Spirit-filled ministry *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit*

2. A mutual ministry *addressing one another*

3. A varied ministry *in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*

4. A God-focused ministry *singing and making melody to the Lord*

5. An internal ministry *with all your heart,*

6. A responsive ministry *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father*

7. A Christ-empowered ministry *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**3. Revelation 4, 5, 7 Heavenly Scenes of Worship**

 ***C.******THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WORSHIP***

John 16:13, 14

J.I. Packer describes this role like this:

 Think of it this way. It is as if the Spirit stands behind us, throwing light over our shoulder, on Jesus, who stands facing us. The spirit’s message is never, ‘Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me,’ but always, ‘Look at him, and see his glory; listen to him, and hear his work; go to him, and have life; get to know him, and taste his gift of joy and peace.’ The Spirit, we might say, is the matchmaker, the celestial marriage broker, whose role it is to bring us and Christ together and ensure that we stay together.

*We* ***can*** *come into God’s presence in worship because of the objective work of Christ (Hebrews 10:19-22); but we* ***want*** *to come into God’s presence because of the subjective work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.*

The Holy Spirit motivates, enables, empowers, and motivates our worship. (Romans 8:15-16; 8:26; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 3:3; Hebrews 10:19-22)

***D. JESUS CHRIST AND WORSHIP***

**1. Hebrews**

a. The *present* ministry of Christ 2:12,18; 3:1; 4:14-16; 7:25; 8:1-2,6; 9:24; 10:21; 13:15,21).

b. The *deity* of Christ (1:3,5,6,8)

 c. The *humanity* of Christ 2:9,11,17)

 d. Christ’s continuing mediation (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14; 7:25; 2:12)

**2. Hebrews 2:12** (quoting Psalm 22:22)

 “I will proclaim Your Name to My brethren;

 in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”

***Jesus Himself is the true worship leader*!**

 **3.** **Profound Implications**

**a. JESUS *IS* THE REVELATION AND RESPONSE PATTERN OF SCRIPTURE**

**God’s Man’s**

 **REVELATION RESPONSE**

 (as God, Christ (as man, Christ

 proclaims the sings the

 Father’s name) Father’s praise)

 **b. PRACTICAL OUTWORKINGS**

1. The true *power* of Christian worship comes from ***the living Christ in our midst***

2. The true *constant*of worship is ***the presence of the living Christ***

3. It is not the excellence of our worship that delights the Father, but rather ***the excellence of His Son***.

***GOD’S GRACE FOR OUR WORSHIP***!

**4.** **Conclusion**

*“Through Him [Christ] then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name.’ (Hebrews 13:15)*