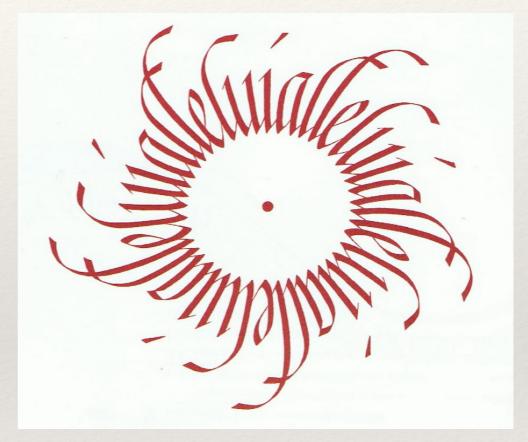
# **Biblical Worship**



O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation! Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods, In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

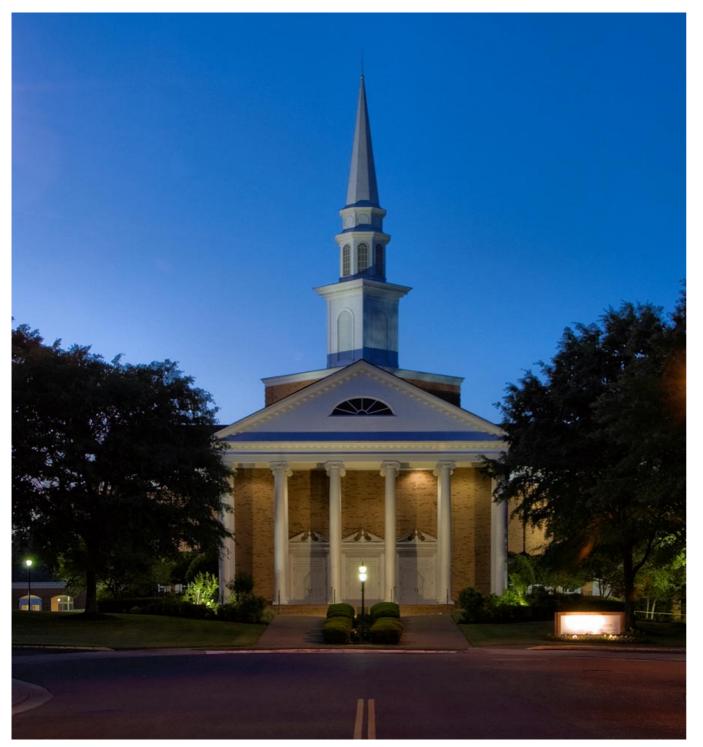
(Psalm 95:1-7)

#### RON MAN

#### IRON MAN



# IRON MAN

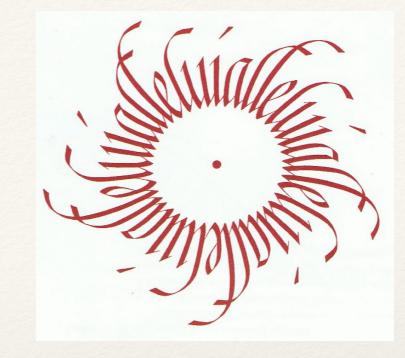


#### First Evangelical Church

#### Memphis, Tennessee







#### **Biblical Worship**

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#### introduction, part 1

## The Theology of Worship

Now, **worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism.** We're organized; we work; we have our agendas. We have almost everything, but there's one thing that the churches, even the gospel churches, do not have: that is the ability to worship. We are not cultivating the art of worship. It's the one shining gem that is lost to the modern church, and I believe that we ought to search for this until we find it.

(A. W. Tozer, 1961)

#### SINCE

- Worship books
- Worship conferences
- Worship songs
- Worship courses
- Worship degrees
- Worship consultations

Good news and Bad news

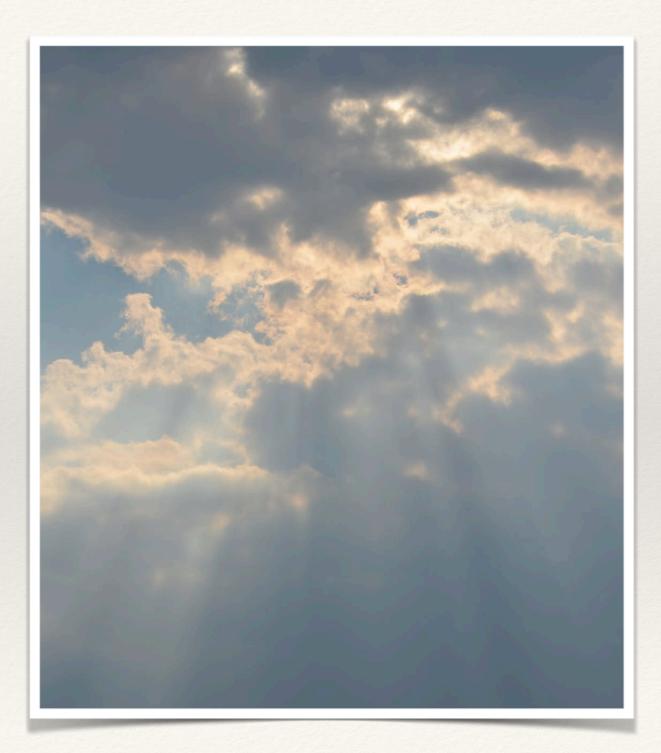
# Why study the "theology of worship"?

What a "theology" is
What a "theology of worship" is



## 1. GOD'S WORD tells us who God is.

\*GOD is the *subject* of our worship.
\*Worship is *about* Him.
\*We must worship Him *as He really is*.



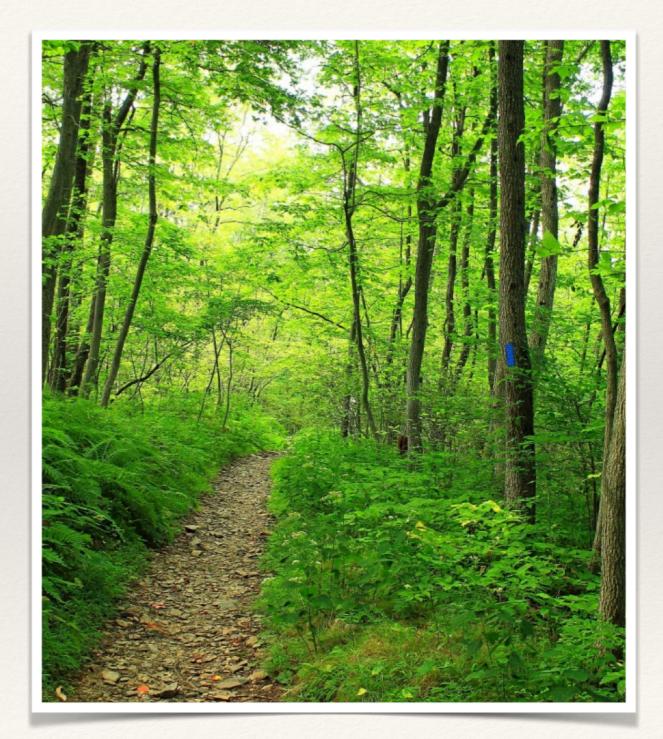
#### 2. GOD'S WORD tells us what God wants.

\*GOD is the *object* of our worship.
\*Worship is *for* Him, for His pleasure..
\*We must worship Him *as He wants to be worshiped*.



# 3. GOD'S WORD is our guide.

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)



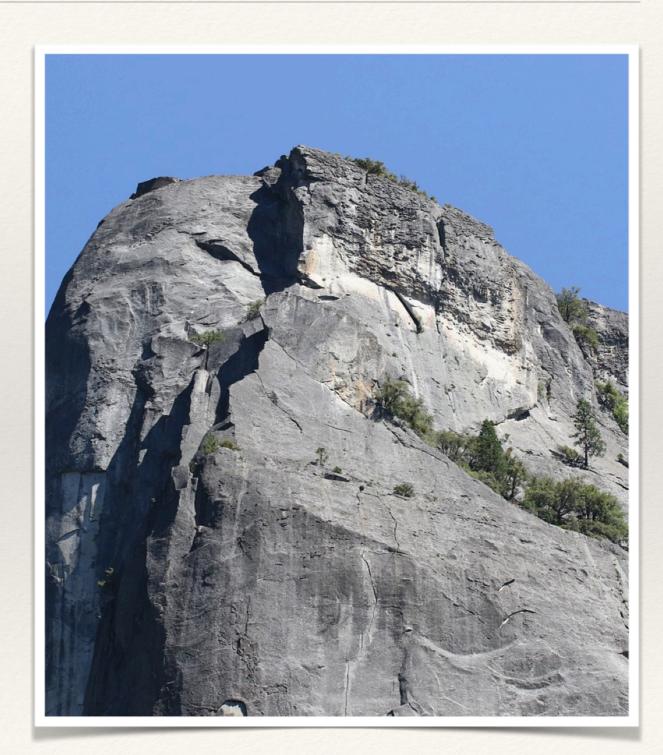
#### 4. GOD'S WORD tells us that all of life is to be worship.

"... present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1)

ON	TUE	WED	THU	FF
	4	5	6	7
	11	12	13	14
	18	19	20	21
	25	26	27	28

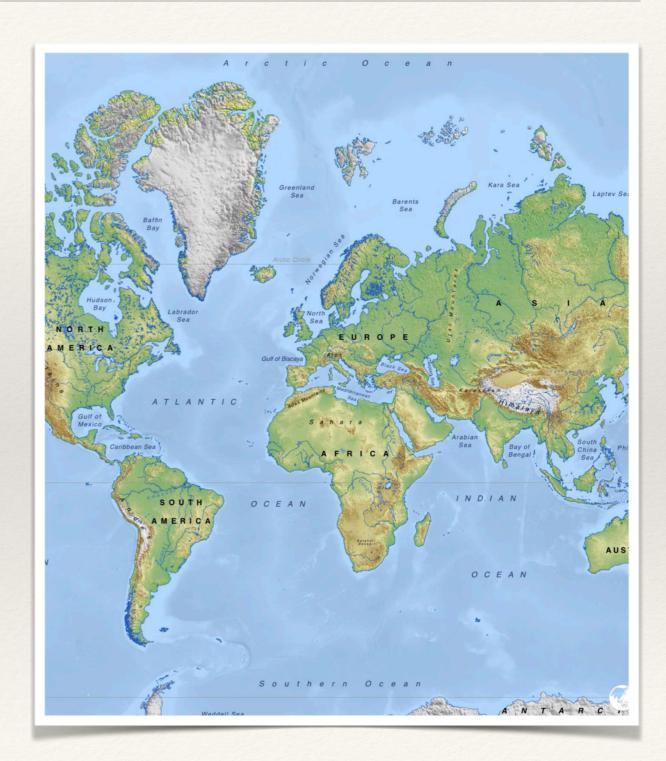
#### 5. GOD'S WORD is our only unchanging standard.

"Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89)



6. Only GOD'S WORD can give us a unified understanding of worship.

What are the essentials? What does *not* change?



- 1. GOD'S WORD tells us who God is.
- 2. GOD'S WORD tells us what God wants.
- 3. GOD'S WORD is our guide.
- 4. GOD'S WORD tells us that all of life is to be worship.
- 5. GOD'S WORD is our only unchanging standard.

6. Only GOD'S WORD can give us a unified understanding of worship.

#### BREAKOUT

- 1. How do you react to these points?
- 2. Can you think of any other reasons why a theology of worship is important?
- 3. How might our theology of worship relate to other areas of theology?

The Importance of Worship for Theology

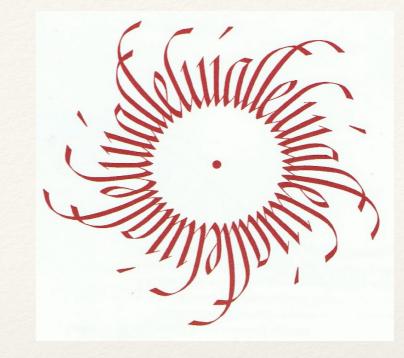
# 1. Theology/Biblical study is a *means* to an *end*.

"The purpose of theology is *doxology* – we study in order to *praise*." (J.I. Packer) The Importance of *Worship* for *Theology* 

# 2. Most Protestant churches have traditionally emphasized doctrine over worship.

#### What we will talk about

- Biblical foundations of worship; not much about specific forms or styles
- The centrality of worship in all life and ministry; NOT just on Sunday morning
- Biblical principles of worship which can be applied in any culture



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#### **Biblical Worship**

#### introduction, part 2

## Revelation and Response

# REVELATION AND RESPONSE

The Pattern of True Worship

# REVELATION RESPONSE

# A Crucial Order!

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days HE HAS SPOKEN to us by His Son."

(Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV)

"Our worship is our answer to God who has first addressed us. . . Man worships the God who has made Himself known. . . . All our worship is but our response to the self-giving of God in revelation and redemption."

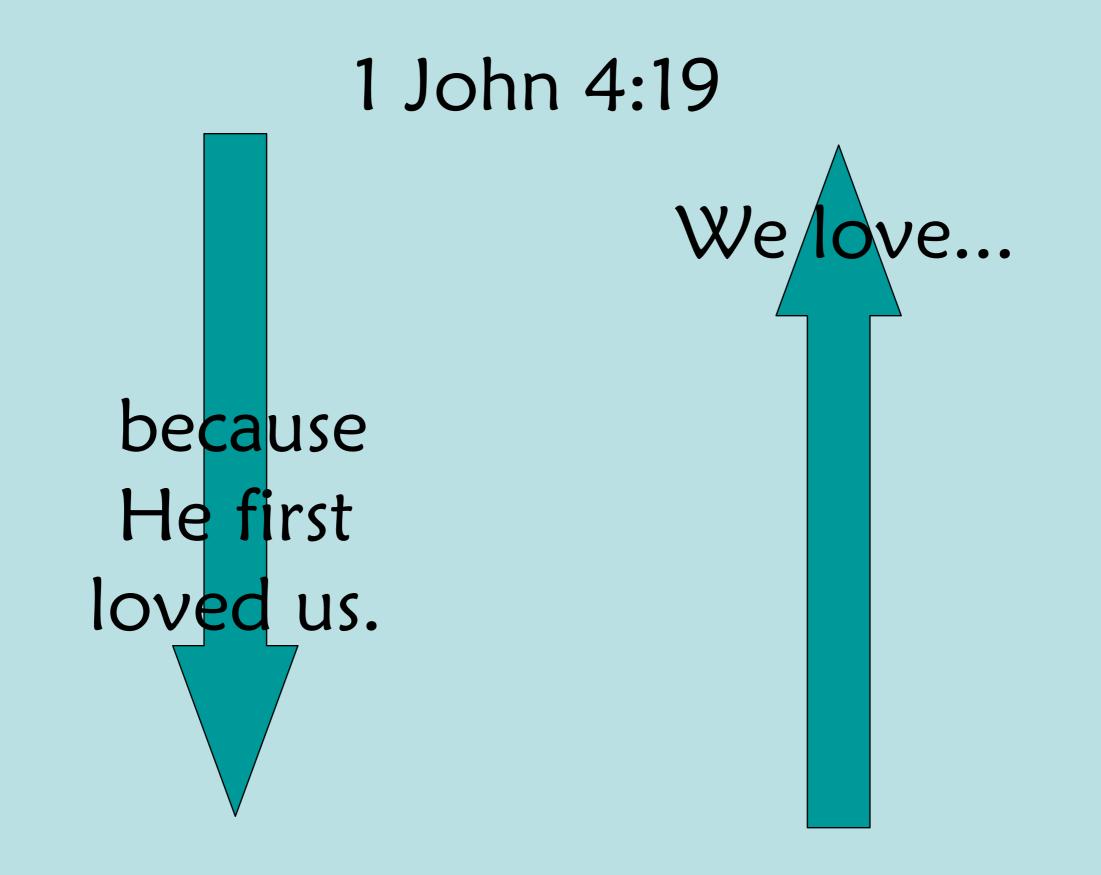
(William Nicholls, Jacob's Ladder: The Meaning of Worship, 37, 53)

#### religion / Pelagianism:

# man's initiative

#### Christianity /Augustinianism:

# God's initiative



## A Biblical Pattern

## Examples in the Bible?



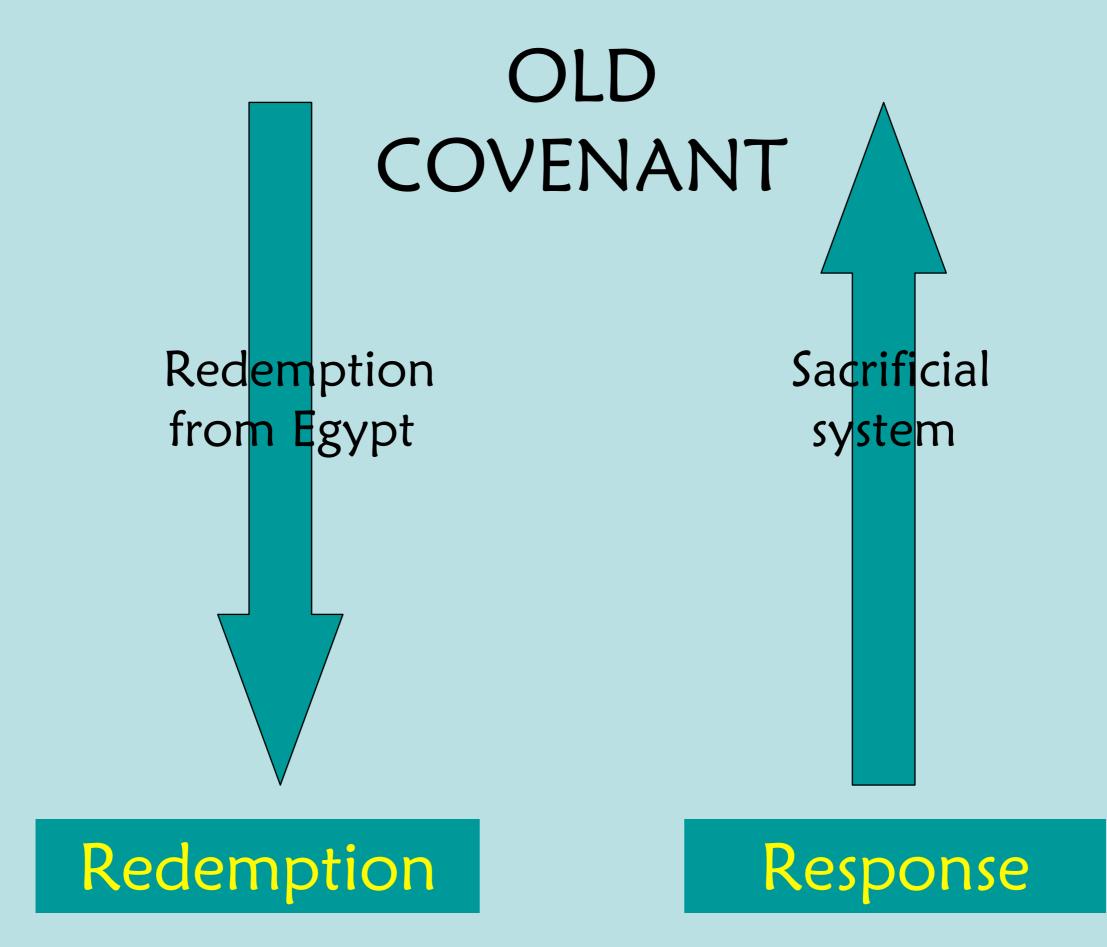


# the biblical pattern . . of REDEMPTION



God's promises to Abraham Abraham "believed the Lord, and He counted to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6)

Revelation



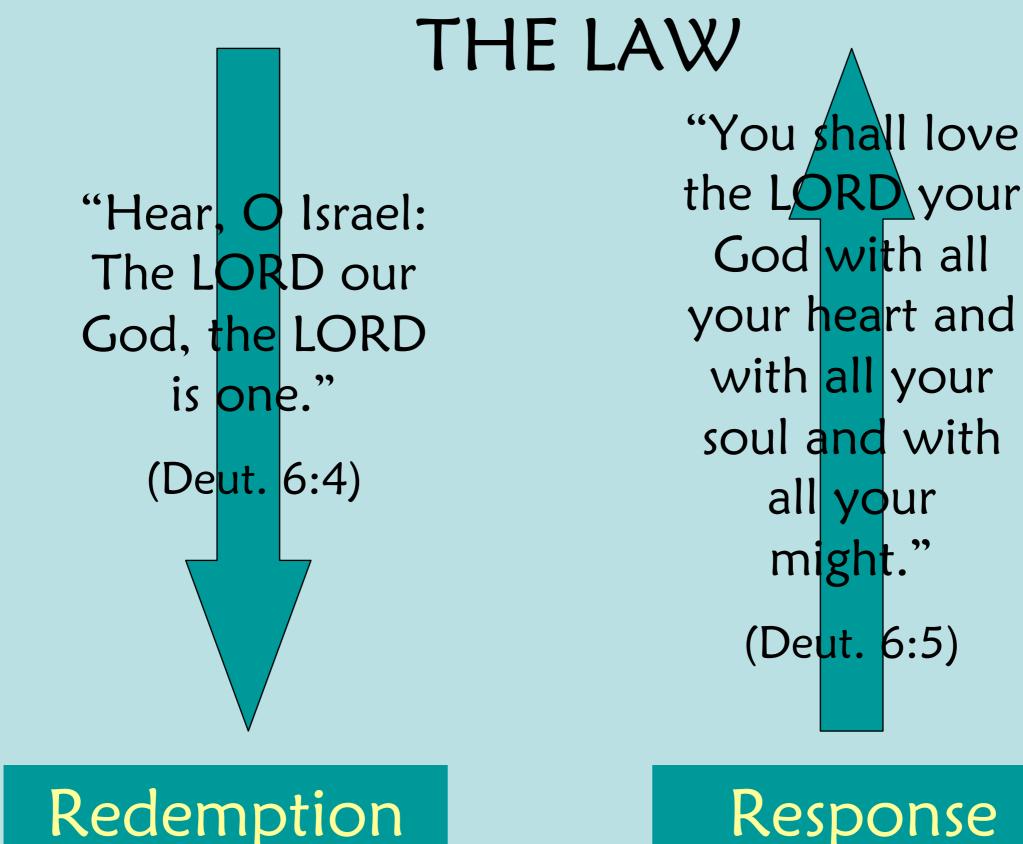
#### THE LAW "You shall have "I am the LORD no other gods your **God**, who brought you out of before Me." the land of Egypt, etc out of the house of slavery." (Exodus 20:2) (Exodus 20:3-17) Redemption Response

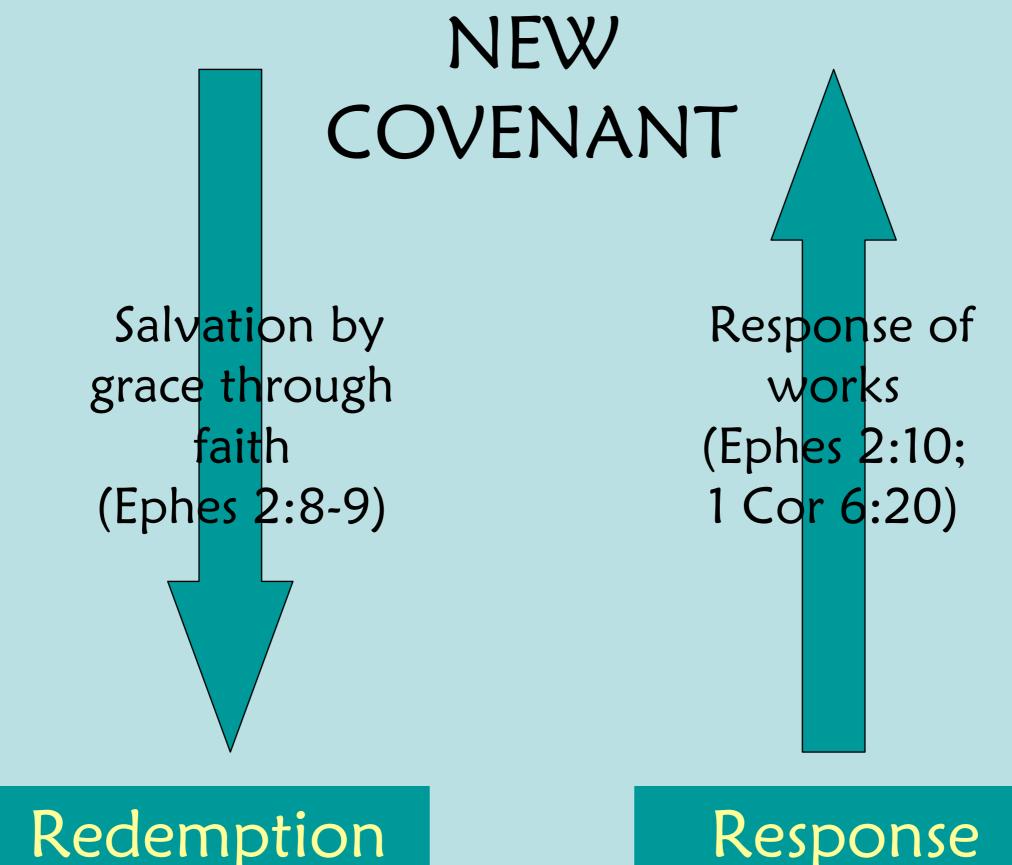
"The commandments were not a ladder to get to God, but showed an already redeemed people how to live as God's people."

(Audrey Nash, Old Testament Story: Seeing the Old Testament as a Whole, 31) "The indicatives of grace always precede the imperatives of law."

(James Torrance)

God: "I HAVE done this for you; NOW do this"





# the biblical pattern of WORSHIP

#### "God needs to be known before He can be worshiped."

(Eric Alexander)

"Acceptable worship does not start with human intuition or inventiveness, but with the action of God." (David Peterson, Engaging With God, 26) "The basic pattern of biblical worship . . . is that it is God who initiates the encounter, not the worshiper." (Robbie Castleman, Story-Shaped Worship, 37)

# THE FALL

Romans 1

His invisible attributes, His eternal power and **div**ine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made (v, 20)

#### Revelation

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks (v. 21)They . . . worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator (v. 25)

CANAANITE ALTARS built to: hoped for: invoke appease placate mercy blessing

# ALTARS IN GENESIS

(Robbie Castleman, 37)

- Noah (8:20)
- Abram (12:7-8; 13:3-4;
- **1**3:18; 22:9) • Isaac (26:**25**)
- Jacob (28:18; 33:20; 35:7)

Response

#### Revelation

Gc

spoke,

revealed

Himself

### ABRAHAM

- Cov<mark>en</mark>antal
  - promises
- Names of
  - God
- The ophanies

Revelation

• Builds altars • Calls on the name of the ord

THE MOSAIC "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." (Deut. 6:4)

LAW

#### Revelation

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." (Deut. 6:5)

	PSALMS
48:10	"As is Your Name, O God so is Your praise to the ends of the
earth."	
96:4	"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised."
150:2	"Praise Him according to His excellent greatness."
	Revelation Response

# ROMANS 12:1

THEREFORE I urge you, brethren,

by the mercies of God (chaps. 1–11) to p<mark>res</mark>ent your bodies a living and holy sacrifice





# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are YES? therefore also through Him is our AMEN to the glory of God through us.

Revelation

# HEBREWS 2:12

I will proclaim Your Name to my brethren . . . and in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.

#### Revelation

# HEBRE<mark>W</mark>/S 10:19-22

THEREFORE, brethren,

- since we have have confidence to enter by the blood of Jesus
- since we have a great priest over
   the house of God

LET US DRAW NEAR

#### Revelation

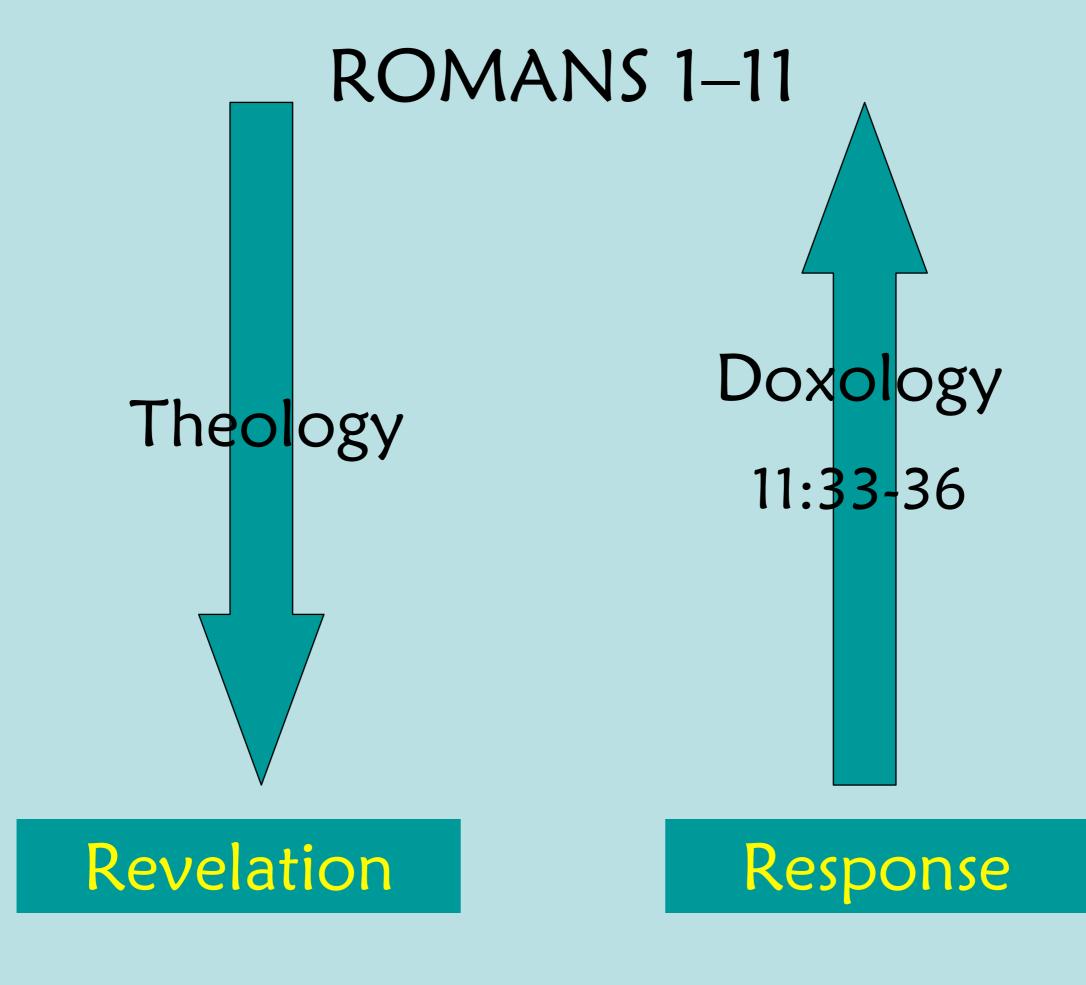


# the biblical pattern

of worship

Revelation THEOLOGY

Response DOXOLOGY



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?"

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen.

(Romans 11:33-36)

"Acceptable worship does not start with human intuition or inventiveness, but with the action of God."

(David Peterson, Engaging with God, 26)

"All our worship is but our response to the self-giving of God in revelation and redemption."

(Nicholls, Jacob's Ladder: The Meaning of Worship, 53)

"The purpose of theology is doxology; we study in order to praise." (J. I. Packer)

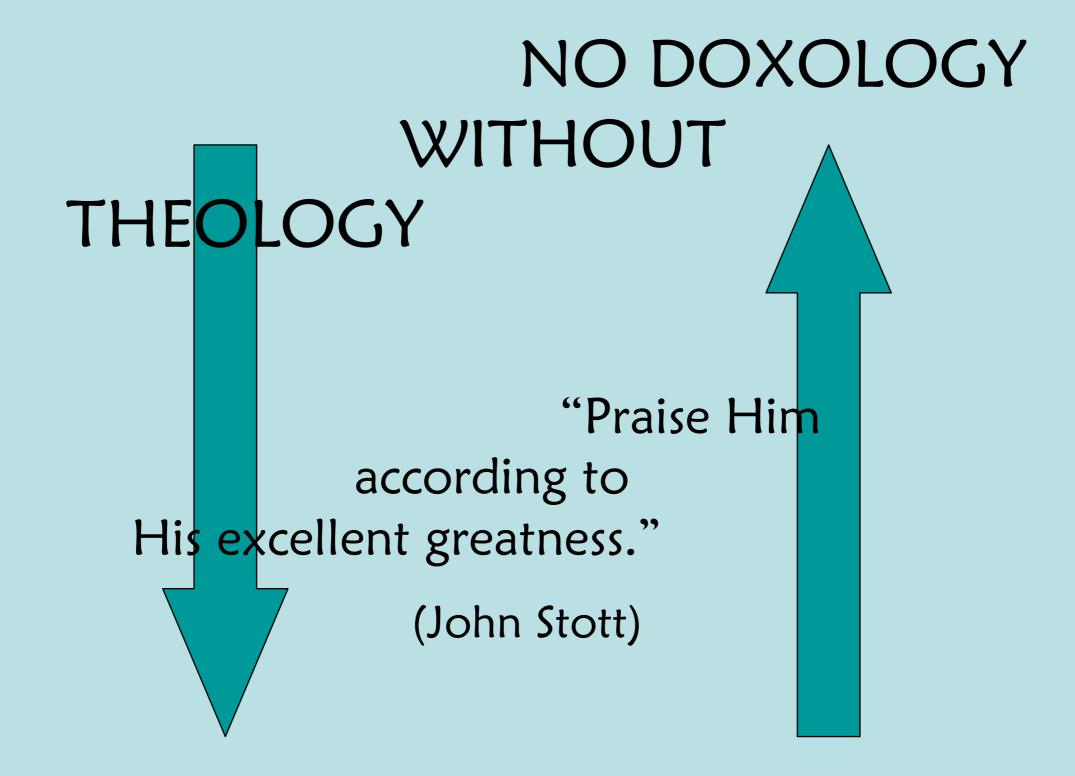
#### NO DOXOLOGY WITHOUT THEOLOGY

"There can be no doxology without theology. All true worship is a response to the self-revelation of God in Christ and Scripture, and arises from our reflection on who He is and what He has done."

(John Stott)

#### "God needs to be known before He can be worshiped."

(Eric Alexander, "Worship: The Old Testament Pattern" [sermon])



#### NO THEOLOGY WITHOUT DOXOLOGY

"There should be no theology without doxology. There is something fundamentally flawed about a purely academic interest in God. No, the true knowledge of God will always lead us to to worship, as it did Paul. Our place is on our faces before Him in adoration."

(John Stott, Romans: God's Good News for the World, 311-12)

# ROMANS 12:1

THEREFORE I urge you, brethren,

by the mercies of God (chaps. 1–11) to p<mark>res</mark>ent your bodies a living and holy sacrifice





O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made: I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power through all the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: "How great Thou art, how great Thou art!" Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: "How great Thou art, how great Thou art!"

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: "How great Thou art, how great Thou art!" Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: "How great Thou art, how great Thou art!"

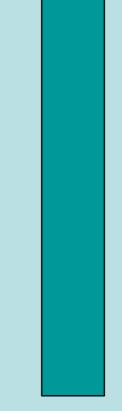
## PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

### 1. The Word in Worship

We must recognize "the indispensable place of Scripture in both public and private devotion. It is the Word of God which calls forth the worship of God." (Stott, 311-12) MORE OF THE WORD!

### The Foundation of Foundations for Worship: THE WORD OF GOD

Preached Believed Read Sung Prayed Honored Enacted



### "Let the Word of Christ dwell richly among you."

### Colossians 3:16

"It is the Word that calls us to worship, addresses us in worship, teaches us how to worship and enables us to praise God and encourage one another."

(Edm<mark>und</mark> P. Clowney, The Church, 199)

#### THE PROBLEM

"Why is it that many who would claim to be heirs of the Reformation, or who would at least call themselves 'Bible-believers,' have so little of the Bible in their public worship services?"

(Douglas Smith, "Sola Scriptura and Service Planning")

#### WHAT'S AT STAKE

"When the role of Scripture in worship is negligible, when Scripture is used only to launch a sermon, what is communicated is that the Bible is marginal in Christian life, too. The use we make or fail to make of Scripture in our worship says far more about Christian discipleship than we may realize."

(James F. White, "Making Our Worship More Biblical," Perkins Journal 34 [Fall 1980]:38)

### THE COMMAND

"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture." (1 Timothy 4:13)

- More of the Word
- Scriptural evaluation of songs
- Choose songs to go with Scripture, not
   Scripture to go with songs!
- Let Scripture give form to our worship ("thematic worship")
  - Let God speak first (His invitation)

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Scriptural Invitation)

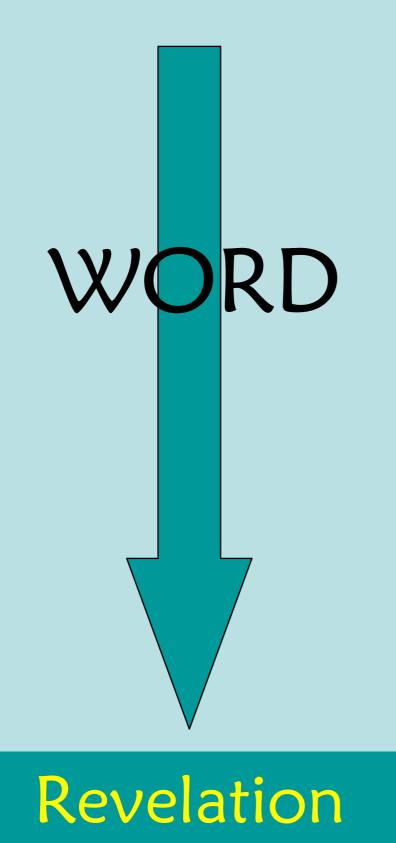
"The host of the worship service is divine. We do not invite Him to be present. He invites us. . . . He always initiates; we respond."

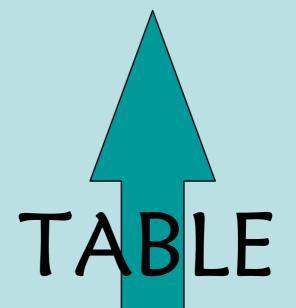
(Bryan Chapell, Christ-Centered Worship, 160)

"Our worship is our answer to God who has first addressed us. . . Man worships the God who has made Himself known."

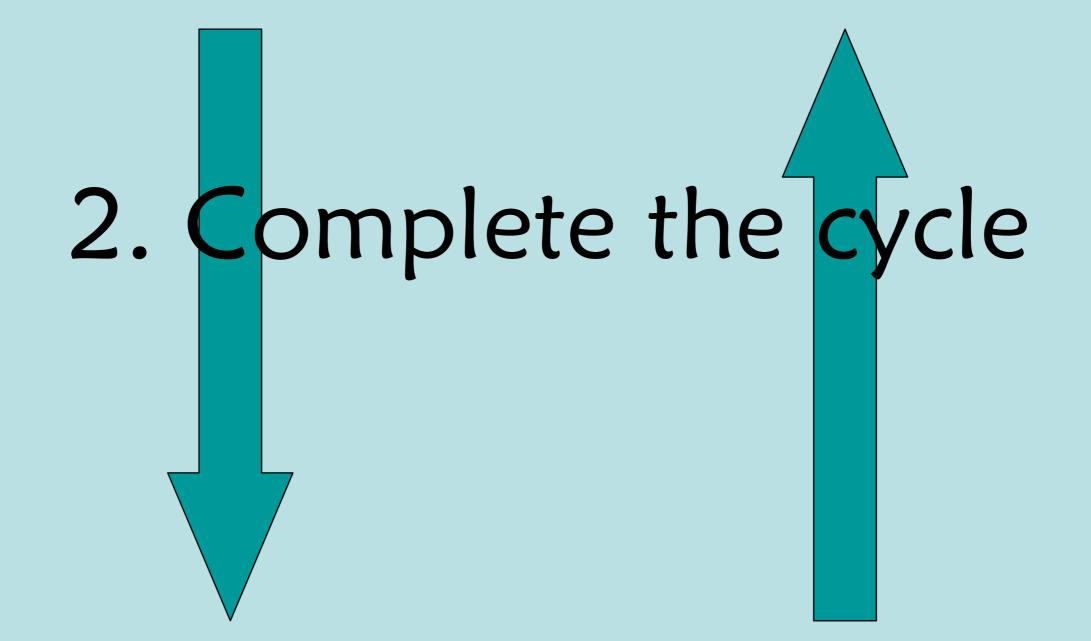
(Nicholls, Jacob's Ladder, 37)

We have nothing to say to Him until He speaks!

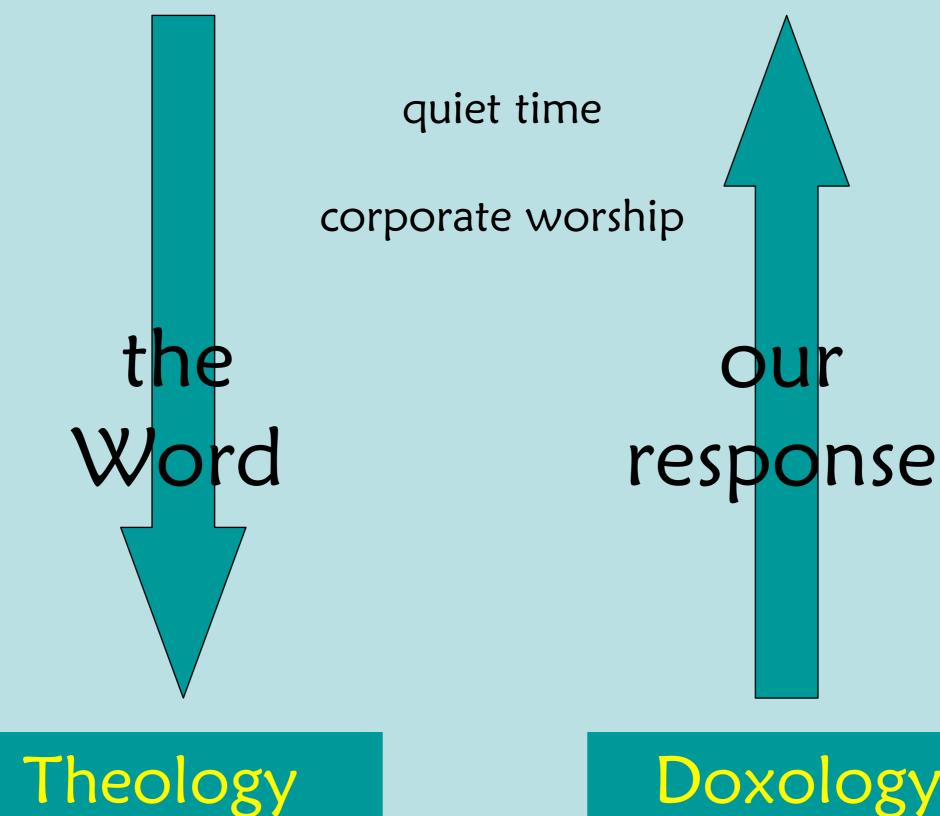








"The purpose of theology is doxology; we study in order to praise." (J. I. Packer)





#### Scripture as lead-in to singing

Significant response after preaching

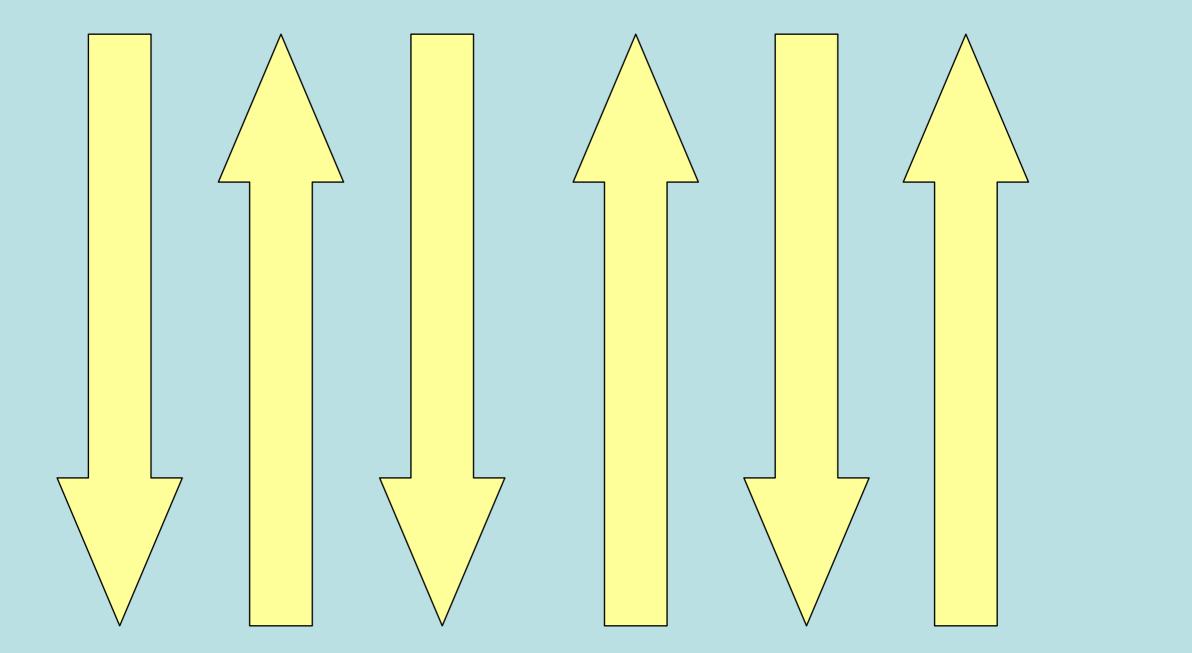
The entire service is worship (Word and response)

Thematic worship

### 3. Worship as a dialogue

A conversation between God and His people!

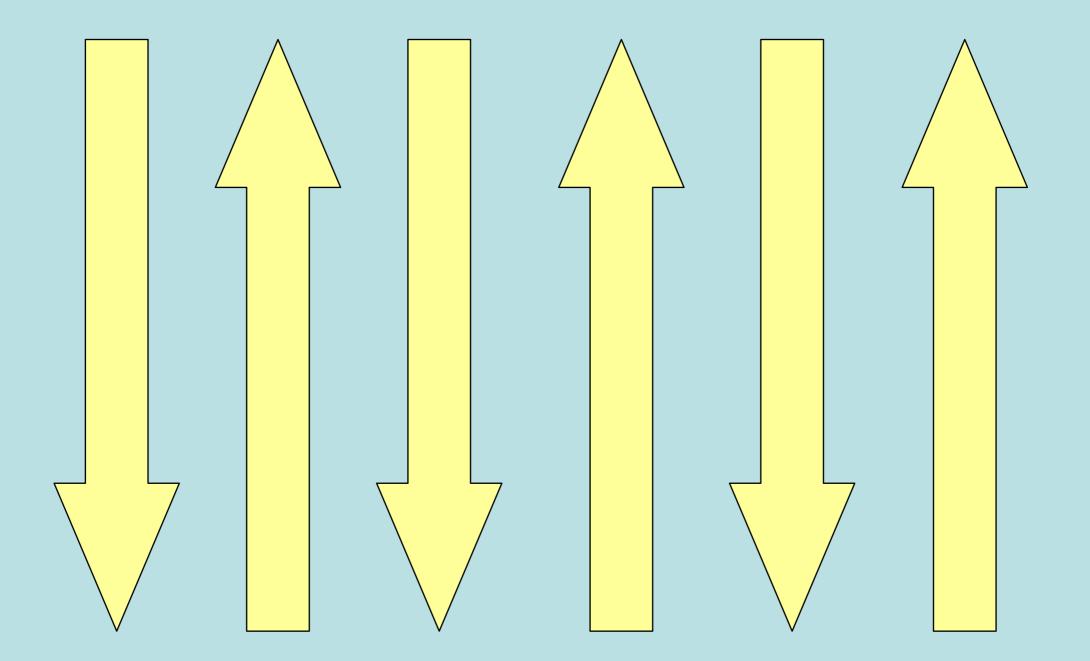
Alternate revelation and response



Worship as a dialogue Songs of praise, Call to worship lament, etc. Scriptur<mark>e r</mark>eadings Prayer Preaching Confession Scripture songs Meditation Songs about God's character Lord's Supper and acts Commitment

#### listening

responding



#### BREAKOUT

- 1. How is the balance in your church's services?
- 2. What ways could you include more of the Word in your services?







"It should always happen in this house of God that the Lord speaks to us through His holy Word,

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l es gescher

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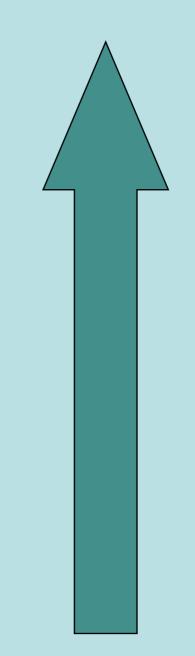
and that we then speak to Him with our prayers and songs of praise."

### NO DOXOLOGY WITHOUT THEOLOGY!

### NO THEOLOGY WITHOUT DOXOLOGY!

### oundation of Foundations for Wo THE WORD OF GOD

Preached Believed Read Sung Prayed Honored Enacted



### hence: Biblical Worship

# REVELATION AND RESPONSE

The Pattern of True Worship