

“Gathered for Worship”
Summer in the Psalms #3
96
July 8, 2018

Scripture Reading: Psalm 96:1-13

Introduction

Big Idea: The Psalms help and teach us how to gather for worship.

I. God’s people must gather together for worship | Psalm 96:1-3, 8

1. **God’s people:** salvation is *into* a family
2. **Must gather:** publicly | 96:8 — ...come into his courts! (Hebrews 10:25)
3. **For worship:** yes evangelism, but worship is primary (1 Corinthians 14:23-25)

2. Every church gathering has a liturgy

Bryan Chapell— Many Protestants think “liturgy” only describes highly ceremonial worship in Catholic, Orthodox, or Anglican churches. We normally talk about our worship in terms of a “Sunday service” or the “worship time.” The activities that surround the Sermon we may describe as the “song service,” “the service of prayer,” or simply as “the worship.” However, the biblical word for all that’s included in our worship is “liturgy” (*latreia*, see Rom. 12:1), and it simply describes the public way a church honors God in its times of gathered praise, prayer, instruction, and commitment. All churches that gather to worship have a liturgy—even if it’s a very simple liturgy.

Liturgy: the work of the people (Romans 12:1)

1. Two analogies: balanced exercise, balanced diet
2. Bryan Chapell — I often hear that misperception when I am invited to preach during a regular pastor’s absence from a local church. A lay leader will often orient me to the worship service with words similar to these: “I’ll take care of the opening stuff, so that you can do the sermon.” That “opening stuff” is in most people’s minds the requisite assortment of hymns and prayers that we need to chug through prior to the “real thing”—the Sermon. The “stuff” that fills the time early in the service is considered only the prelude to the Sermon, the opening act to the main event, or the pleasantries we need to get past so that we can get to the “meat of the matter.” Typically no one thinks much about the “opening stuff,” and no one is going to complain about it unless someone changes the traditional order, changes a familiar tune, or forgets the offering.
3. 2.5 — The sermon is not the service!

3. The gospel should shape our liturgy

1. Glory | 96:4, 6-9
2. Guilt | 96:4-5
3. Grace | 96:2, 11-13

4. Gratitude | 96:2, 4, 8
5. Guidance
 - a. Bryan Chapell — Preaching is not the only thing done in [worship]. There is “Preparation” prior to “Proclamation.” This “Preparation,” as we will soon see, is not random or arbitrary. The components of the worship service prior to and after the Sermon lead the heart through various stages of awe, humility, assurance, and thanksgiving to make us receptive and responsive to the instruction of the Word. There is a strategy to the liturgy.
6. Go | 96:10

How to Gather

1. **Prepare** before we gather to worship²
2. **Participate** in all of worship²
3. **Persist** in gathering for worship

Benediction

Psalm 28 ⁷The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. ⁸The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. ⁹ Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.