



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



March 2019

Volume 13, Number 8

The Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, had a strange lawsuit on its hands. One of the church's deacons blamed the church for a herniated disc in his back. He claimed the back injury occurred when he was assisting a fellow church member who became "overly excited during the sermon."

Could such an accusation be made at your church? Do you get excited about going to church? Does worshipping God put a smile on your face and pep in your step, or does it give you the blues?

The book of Psalms is like a worship instruction manual. Martin Luther made the statement, "The Psalms are a little Bible, wherein everything contained in the entire Bible is beautifully and briefly comprehended." (*Luther*, p. 254)

The Psalms are a prime source of learning about God, His will for the world, and life lived under His claim. Some believe they originated as liturgical material. Others believe they were the hymnbook or prayer book of the first or second Jewish temple. Still others viewed the Psalms as an instruction manual for theological study of the divine order of salvation. Most would agree the greatest benefits of the Psalms lie in their definition of worship and their clear picture of God the Father and Christ the Son as the Objects of worship.

Here are three examples from the Psalms of what true worship looks like:

1. Delight in God's Word (Psalm 1:1-2)

To delight is to take great pleasure in someone or something. I delight in my wife. I take pleasure in being with and sharing life with her. A person who delights in God's Word walks, stands, and sits differently. He or she does it on a daily basis with intentionality. Whatever is the focus of our delight, it is a reminder to us of how much more we ought to delight in the Lord and His Word!

2. Celebration of God's Character and Work (Psalm 100)

True worship is coming before the Lord with the

joy of praise and thanksgiving in our hearts. This begs the question, what do we do when we don't feel like praising God? In the book, *The Crisis in the University*, Walter Moberly challenged Christians, "If one-tenth of what you believe is true, you ought to be ten times as excited as you are." Regardless of our feelings about different expressions of worship, our attitude in worship tells God how we really feel about His character and work.

David often expressed his burdens in the Psalms. But as he began to talk to God about his struggles, the burdens would lift and he would conclude with praise! The idea here is to come as we are and to focus on who God is. This leads to a joyful spirit and gladness! The benefits of this kind of worship are twofold: 1. We strengthen and encourage each other in the faith. 2. Our praise becomes a witness to unbelievers.

3. Looking for the Coming Messiah (Psalm 110:1-2)

When Jesus came, He stepped into the pain and brokenness of this world and sang the Psalms with His people. But Jesus not only sang the Psalms; He was the King who the Psalms were ultimately about. True worship looks for Jesus. Without Him, our worship is meaningless.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen!

Because He is worthy of our highest praise!

Dr. L.W. Edwards

Related Online Resources:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9phNEaPrv8#t=11 (*Psalms Overview*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SHI_BmTqfk



How does one know when his or her work has become worship? Must it be accompanied with whistling, singing, or a melodic drumbeat? Does it have to be set to music at all?

Worship is often associated with music. While music certainly has its place in worship, authentic worship is much more than that. When speaking of music, worship is the distance a note travels from the instrument or the lips to the heart of God. In its other forms, worship is thoughts, words, and actions which demonstrate God's worth.

One of the great examples of worship, both in music and in life, was Johann Sebastian Bach. He was a quiet church organist and composer of classical works, chorales, passions, and motets. Nearly three-quarters of his 1,100 compositions were written for church worship. His unparalleled and unprecedented 45 volumes of music filled 13,000 pages, enough for 160 CD's. His work is unique in its use of mathematical patterns as well as its undeniably biblical foundation.

Bach's music left an indelible imprint on the hearts of those who heard and studied it. Here are comments from some of his most famous admirers:

"The music of my father has higher purposes: it is not supposed to fill the ear, but to move your heart." – Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach (Johann's son)

"Bach is like an astronomer who, with the help of ciphers, finds the most wonderful stars." – Frederic Chopin (composer and pianist)

"Study Bach. There you will find everything." – Johannes Brahms (composer)

"Bach is the supreme genius of music. . . . This man, who knows everything and feels everything, cannot write one note, however unimportant it may appear, which is anything but transcendent. He has reached the heart of every noble thought, and has done it in the most perfect way." – Pablo Casals (cellist)

"Bach almost persuades me to be a Christian." – Roger Fry (art critic)

Bach would have been a celebrity in today's world. Yet for all the acclaim his works garner today, his music was unappreciated and undervalued during his lifetime. Some of his compositions were sold and the sheet music used to wrap sticks of butter. The composer's simple life was filled with physical hardships, and he died a poor man. For the first 80 years after his death, the musical genius's incredible legacy was all but forgotten.

Why wasn't Bach eager to reverse his fate in his lifetime? Why didn't he clamor for his rights to fame and the trappings of luxury? The answer comes down to a choice he made to exalt Christ in everything. He once said, "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the recreation of the soul." He believed these words so much he inscribed "SDG" — "Soli Deo Glo-

ria": "to God alone the glory" — on the reverse side of his completed manuscripts.

The Apostle Paul lived by a similar rule. While sitting in an unclean, inhumane prison cell, he wrote these words: *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* (Philippians 1:20– 21)

This is the essence of worship. It's living with the humble admission that Christ alone matters. This, of course, applies to worship through music. But it also applies to worship through everyday living: giving, working, driving, shopping, the management of our finances, the care of our families, our interaction with others, our response to our circumstances, service at our local churches, and the things we do for leisure. Worship touches every area of life. The strings of life are played to perfection by a worshipful heart. Every note and chord rings with a sweet melody which exalts Jesus Christ and blesses others.

Is your life a composition of worship to God? Think about the way you respond to the mundane . . . [Full Article](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011

847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net

Sermon Audio Player

Listen to Dr. Edwards online!



Sermon of the Month

Read Dr. Edwards' Sermon of the Month



Free Downloads

Download our free tracts, and help us reach the world!



Stay in Touch!

Share your questions and comments through email.



Are you sure you will spend eternity in Heaven? [Click here](#) to learn how.