



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



## Psalms, Hymns and the Praises of God's People

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**T**he 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. True Worship is Delighting 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. True Worship is the 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. True Worship is 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!*

[\(Watch and listen online\)](#)

*- Dr. L.W. Edwards*

# The Place Where Worship and Work Meet

## The Caged Lion

Worship is what we do on Sunday, right? It's dressing up, plastering on a wide smile, showing up at our local church, shaking a few hands, singing some songs, forcing ourselves to stay awake when the guy gets up in front of the congregation and speaks, and then racing to the car for dinner and a show.

Okay, maybe not exactly, but you get the idea: worship, at least the way we have traditionally defined it, is all about a place. Worship is what we do when we're at church.

That's why we view work as what we do Monday through Friday. It's putting in time at the office, sorting through tickets, answering phone calls, responding to emails, filing paperwork, resolving the world's computer problems, bantering with co-workers at the water cooler, fighting fires, satisfying angry customers, marketing to new ones, and strategizing for the company's future.

If worship is only what we do at church, and work is only what we do at our offices, then these are mutually exclusive concepts. There is never a point where these two lines cross.

What a pity.

## Letting the Cat out of the Bag

Revelation 4:11 jumpstarts our idea of worship: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Did you notice the last part of that verse? It says, "... For thy pleasure they are and were created." That. Changes. Everything. It means everything, including you and me, exists for God's pleasure. We were created to please Him, period.

This revolutionary idea creates some problems for those of us who confine worship and work to a place. God says worship is all about a Person — Him. It's living, working, attending church, interacting with others, and doing life so as to demonstrate His praiseworthiness.

Snap! Suddenly the neat, solid, distinct lines of worship and work have been radically, completely, and irreversibly altered so they are indistinguishable. No longer can worship be caged within church doors. Like a lion released into the wild, worship bounds over hill and valley, prairie and plain until it touches the four corners of the earth and declares with a mighty roar, "The world is mine!"

## What to Do About the Cat on the Loose

What does this new understanding of worship and

work have to do with us? First, it should transform our view of the little things in life. Every action and interaction, every word and thought potentially declares to others our view of God's worth. Colossians 3:23 advises, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Second, this should transform our relationships. Colossians 3 showcases three relationships which are impacted by a proper view of worship: husband-wife, parent-child, and boss-employee. The phrases, "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (v.17), "as it is fit in the Lord" (v.18), "this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (v.20), and "in singleness of heart, fearing God" (v.22) indicate all of life is to be lived before an audience of One and with the intention of pleasing Him.

Finally, the truth about worship should make us think about how well we are presently ascribing worth to God — Sunday through Saturday. You may ask, "Does my conversation with my family in the car on the way to church bring pleasure to God?" "Does my singing and listening in church demonstrate He is worthy of worship?" "Does my work ethic and attitude on the job please God?" "Does the way I respond to disappointments, complications, frustrations, and difficult people at work speak well of my God to those who watch me?" "Do the diversions I allow to take my time draw me closer or create distance between me and God?" "Does the way I treat my roommates communicate a high view of God?" "Would God put His stamp of approval on the way I filed my income taxes this year?"

Our God is worthy of worship and praise — all day, every day. Let's show the world we really believe it.

*Worthy of worship, worthy of praise,  
Worthy of honor and glory.  
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing.  
Worthy of all of the offerings we bring.*

*Worthy of rev'rence, worthy of fear,  
Worthy of love and devotion.  
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees,  
Worthy of all this and added to these.*

*Almighty Father, Master and Lord,  
King of all kings and Redeemer.  
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter, Friend,  
Savior and Source of our life without end.*

*You are worthy, Father, Creator.  
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.  
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful!  
Worthy of worship and praise! - Terry W. York  
([Watch and listen online](#))*

