



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Worship wars. When those two words are spoken together they can strike fear in the heart of any church leader. For in the church, a “worship war” describes the battle that is being waged among people in the church over the philosophy and theology of worship. Typically, the battle lines drawn in this so-called war are over what style of music is going to be played during worship, what instruments are going to be used in worship, what type of songs will be played during worship, as well as what skill-level the worship leader ought to possess in order to lead worship. From the midst of this war are the battle cries of hymns vs. choruses, organ vs. drums, traditional vs. contemporary, charismatic vs. meditative, seeker sensitive vs. spiritual edification, orchestra vs. praise band, formal vs. casual, doctrinal vs. emotional and even (I kid you not) hymnal vs. visual projection. Within the church almost every believer has an opinion, if not a definite preference, as to how they would prefer to participate in and experience corporate worship.

Unfortunately, I believe this war-time mentality among Christians is part of a larger problem that has subtly crept into the church. Perhaps this has always been true but to me the church seems to be precariously teetering between the focus on the proclamation and exaltation of God in worship, and the focus on the experience and impact of the worshiper. This shift, I believe, is evident in the jacket designs that are on various worship CDs today. Just a few decades ago, when perusing the worship section of any Christian bookstore you would find the artwork on the front cover of cassette tapes and albums displaying religious symbols such as a cross, a dove, a Bible, the stained-glass window of a church, etc. Today, many (if not most) worship music is promoted by images such as a panoramic snap-shot of a massive crowd of worshipers, a close-up picture of an emotional worshiper or a candid photo of the worship leader.

This is certainly not intended to be a sweeping condemnation of contemporary worship music, but rather a pastoral exhortation for discernment. As we tend to be with everything sacred, we are naturally prone to gravitate toward or wander away from being God-centered to being self-centered. That is to say, if we are not vigilantly faithful and discerning we may find ourselves more focused on what worship does for us than what it declares about God (i.e. our “experience” in worship rather than the exaltation of God, or how we are worshiping rather than who we are worshiping). This is a subtle yet significant shift from true God-centered, God-honoring and God-pleasing worship. Stephen Charnock once said, “To pretend to pay homage to God, and intend only the advantage of self is rather to mock Him than worship Him.”

True worship is first and foremost about God, not the one worshiping God! When it comes to worship, all that really matters is the sincere heart of the worshiper, and the Scriptural truth of God as the object and subject of their worship. In the words of Jesus Christ, “...*true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth*” (Jn.4:23-24). True worship never begins with man and his need, but with God and His glory!

Clearly, when Christians are fighting about worshiping God they are not worshiping God. Perhaps this is one of Satan's most effective ploys: provoking Christians to profess Christ with their lips while denying Him with their lives.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #29):

Leviticus 16-18; 2 Kings 11-15; Psalm 84-86; Proverbs 11-12; Ezekiel 31-36; Luke 21-22; Colossians 3-4

Recommended Reading:

“Worship Matters” by Bob Kauflin

Calendar of
Events:

Women's Summer
Event

July 19

Quarterly Business
Meeting

July 22

Summer Camp Staff
Meeting

July 22

Mexico Mission Trip
Meeting

July 22

Looking Ahead....

Big G Camp

July 30 – Aug 3

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:
sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm *On break for the summer*
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Book of Ecclesiastes"
w/Pastor David

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
w/Pastor David

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm *On break for the summer*
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am *On break for the summer*
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm *On break for the summer*
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm *On break for the summer*
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"
w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)
Continuing through summer

6:30-8:00pm "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Children's & Youth Ministries

Big G Summer Camp ~

July 30 – August 3

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

Mandatory Staff Meeting - July 22

Immediately after church in Annex. Lunch
provided.

Teen Mexico Mission Trip ~

July 22 – Bake Sale

Meeting and fun night
July 22 – 2:30 pm to 9:00 pm

August 3 – Bake Sale

August 10 – 19

Please be in prayer while the team ministers
during these dates.

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ *On break for the summer*

Junior High youth group ~ *On break for the summer*