



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 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 music today. Just a few decades ago, when perusing the “worship music” 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 a charismatic 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!

Who (or what) we are truly worshiping can sometimes be seen in the songs we sing. As with our lives, the songs we sing in worship – either private or corporate worship – must be Christ-centered and biblically-based. First and foremost, God must be the supreme focus of our worship. Anything else is idolatry.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #2):

Genesis 4-7; Joshua 6-10; Psalm 3-5; Job 3-4; Isaiah 7-11; Matthew 3-4; Romans 3-4

Recommended Reading:

“Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice” by Bryan Chapell

Calendar of
Events:

January 17

SAM's Potluck

January 19

Women's Breakfast

January 20, 6pm

Annual Business

Mtg.

Looking Ahead...

New Year Celebration

Potluck

February 10

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 "The Measure of a Man: Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man"

w/Jeff Etzel (541-260-8725)

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Pursuit of God"

w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Behold Your God: Discovering the Unfathomable Greatness and Glory of God"

w/Pastor Tim (541-756-3311)

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Joseph-A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness"

w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Gospel According to God" *Begins February 10

At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline

w/Pastor Tim (541-756-3311)

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Romans"

w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Lessons from the Upper Room"

w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"

w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Philippians: Knowing Jesus...Knowing Joy"

w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-751-3169)

1:00-2:15pm "Hebrews"

w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Hebrews"

w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Romans"

w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Seeking God's Great Riches, the Book of Hebrews"

w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)

6:30-8:00pm "Romans"

w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Church News & Events.....

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ January 17, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for our SAM's potluck luncheon in the Fireside Room. This month's guest speaker will be from the local Pregnancy Resource Center. We will have a "Baby Shower" to provide their moms and babies with small needed items. Some suggested items are newborn gowns, size 4-6 diapers, 1T-3T boy's clothing, boy's & girl's shoes, maternity clothes and new bottles & pacifiers in their original packaging. We don't want to miss you - if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Women's Breakfast ~ January 19, 8:30am

Ladies, please join us for a light breakfast, fellowship and devotions.

Annual Business Meeting ~ January 20, 6pm