

## **PART TWO: WORSHIP THAT SHAPES US. AN IMAGE EMERGES.**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **Guiding Principles for Reading:**

1. *We Become Like What We Worship.*
2. *Words Matter – Content is King.*

#### **Part Two of the course will be:**

1. *Biblical Theology of Worship*
2. *A Pastoral Practicum concerning worship in the local church.*

- **All of life is worship, not just music, but all our living, loving, doing & even dying.**
- **If you approach them rightly, your studies are a spiritual act of worship.**

*“One of the primary spiritual laws is that you BECOME LIKE what you worship, and you REFLECT what you are worshiping not only into different parts of your own life but to the people around you and the world where you live. Thus one of the purposes of Christian worship is that we not only become like the God we see in Jesus Christ, but that we reflect this God in our own lives and to the people and places where we are placed.”<sup>i</sup> -*

#### ***Tom Wright, Pastor & NT Scholar***

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Tom Wright lecture - *Freedom and Framework, Spirit and Truth: Recovering Biblical Worship* (Originally published in *Studia Liturgica* 2002, 32, 176-95.)

**Filter every story of right worship or wrong worship thru this quote, and these words will ring true.**

#### **EXERCISE #1**

**As you read thru the following examples, think of how people became like what they worshipped, then reflected that out towards others.**

- **Adam & Eve in the Garden: The Serpent, The Fruit, Themselves.**
  - *Wanted to be like God in power and knowledge rather than character and holiness.*
- **Abel's Right Worship vs. Cain's Wrong Worship**
  - *Cain did not offer good worship and despised those who did.*
- **The Building of Babel**
  - *Humans gloried in their own accomplishment rather than God's awesomeness and kingship.*
- **Samson's Seduction at the Hands of Delilah**
  - *Samson valued intimacy with Delilah more than obedience to and intimacy with God, and it was his downfall.*
- **The Israelites worshipping a golden calf.**
  - *Israel had been living in a polytheistic culture for over 400yrs, they became like the Egyptians, they even cried out to return to Egyptian slavery. Further, consider that because of idolatry (being too much like the Egyptians), the LORD allowed an entire generation of Israelites*

to die in the wilderness so that a more pure people would enter God's promised land.

- **Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal**
  - Elijah worshipped in the face of intimidating circumstances. Baal's prophets ended up cutting themselves in a demonic frenzy, mirroring the chaos of the spirits they worshipped.
- **David**
  - Offers right worship in the sheep fields, then brings the Ark back to its proper place. David reflects and lead the people in right worship.
- **Daniel's worship of YHWH**
  - Daniel's right worship led King Nebuchadnezzar to finally say "Daniel's God is the true God."

### Now move to the N.T.

- **Mary's Magnificat**
  - Mary's content is unparalleled! She becomes the first poet theologian of the New Testament, recounting God's great redemption story.
- **Simeon's Song of Salvation**
  - Like Mary, Simeon's song has rich and deep biblical content.
- **Simon the Sorcerer**
  - His worship was so wrong that he offered money to gain Apostolic power.

### Point: Content is King! Motivation is revealing!

- Mary and Simeon do not sing simplistic repetitive songs which lack specificity!
- Mary and Simeon use rich and detailed biblical language of the biblical story. Very similar to the Psalms.

### POINT: YOU SEE A CONTINUITY BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS AS TO WHAT DEFINES RIGHT WORSHIP AND WRONG WORSHIP.

**Q: Do we have similar standards for contemporary worship?**

**Q: Do our songs share in the biblical language, imagery, and depth?**

- **The passage in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, known as the *SHEMA*, instructs us to love God with our hearts, souls, and strength.**
- **According to Mark 12:28-30, the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.**
- **When we worship God, we are acknowledging God's supremacy and confessing our deficiency.**
  - This is true in every story which contains right worship or obedience.
  - When we see wrong worship or disobedience, we see the opposite.

**Human deficiency is a primary reason that the O.T. priests had to perform so many rituals before they were allowed to enter God's Presence and make sacrifice.**

- (Rituals of cleansing, washing, abstaining from touching certain things, eating certain foods, wearing of ritualistic clothes, etc.)
- The point was to communicate that HUMANS cannot enter God's Presence because GOD is so holy, and we have deficiencies which need to be cleansed or covered.

**Now consider the downfall of many ministers today.**

**What are the causes of their public downfall?**

- Compare these with the failures of Biblical Leaders
- Money, Sex, Power, Popularity, "Success".
- At some point the affections of their heart were set on these types of things,
- They became enamored with these things, which reflected into other parts of their lives, and then to the people around them.
- Very similar to Adam & Eve, Cain, Babel, Samson, Simon the Sorcerer.

**Consider, that WORSHIP is more than music,**

**Worship begins with a *disposition* of the heart towards a person, place, thing.**

**Worship becomes a *dedication* of the heart's affections and whatever our heart has affections towards will have a measure of power over us.**

**Worship is an expression of VALUE we place on things.**

**And that value determines what we will do to possess or experience those things.**

**Money, Success, Power, Sex, God, etc.**

**How do we pursue and revere these things?**

**An effective spiritual leader takes a HOLISTIC approach to spirituality.**

**The term *holistic worship* means *worshipping God* with all we are.**

**We do not relegate people's "worship" only to whether or not they sing, but to every square inch of life. Good Pastors cultivate expressions of worship in every facet of their peoples' lives, all their thinking and doing.**

**We become what we what we worship, reflecting it in our lives, and to the world.**

*Never had much faith in love or miracles  
 Never wanna put my heart on the line  
 But swimming in your water is something spiritual  
 I'm born again every time you spend the night  
 'Cause your sex takes me to paradise  
 Yeah, your sex takes me to paradise  
 'Cause you make me feel like I've been locked out of heaven*

**- Opening Lyrics from "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars,**

**Song reached #1 in the US and Europe**  
**This song was performed at halftime of the 2014 Superbowl,**  
**Bruno is performing again this year.**

### **We sing about WHAT WE THINK ABOUT.**

What we think and then sing or talk about, shapes our minds, our morals, and us.

Bruno Mars does not claim to be a Christian and we shouldn't get angry with him as he is expressing beliefs common to most people who aren't Christians.

- **Bruno actually says something right, BUT he says something very wrong.**
  - o *Bruno recognizes that sex is spiritual. (Right, God made it that way)*
  - o **BUT**, Bruno makes sex the ultimate goal in life, attributes to it divine power, and worships it as an idol. (Wrong, Twisted view)
  - o Bruno misuses Christian language & belief.
  - o Culture's worship often contains half-truths, and we must NOT be shaped by these, but rather we must be shaped by FULL TRUTH so that we rightly worship, reflect that to the world, and therefore lead culture out of wrong worship and into right worship.

**Christians should pray that Bruno leaves wrong thinking, to discover & adopt what the Bible rightly says about sex & salvation.**

**If worship shapes us, and we become what we worship...**

**One Big Question confronts us as we plan our worship services both in the music and in our message and in all our living**

**Do our worship songs, our messages, the sources which shape us, have enough Deep biblical content to teach us the Bible and shape us into MATURITY?**

- *If our worship songs OR sermons misuse Christian language, Scripture, & promote wrong thinking then we stand MORE GUILTY than Bruno.*
- *Our songs & sermons must correct bad content both outside and inside the Church.*

**CONTENT - is important because CONTENT SHAPES US.**

- Shallowness and Wrong Thinking both do damage to Christian Worship, our Christian Walk, and our Christian Witness.
- Services with Depth → Disciple us, equip us to live well and be fruitful.

**WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT:**

- **New Testament & Old Testament Concepts of Worship**
- **Fundamentals of Good Content, Sample Sets & Resources**

**DNA OF WORSHIP: Humanity's Original Design.**

**Genesis**

**OUR OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS**

## **THE TABERNACLE AND THE TEMPLE – ARCHITECTS, STRUCTURE, ETC.**

**When God gave the Law to Moses, He also gave him a road map for worship: The Tabernacle...The Lord gave Moses instructions for building...Moses had to choose gifted architects & craftsmen (as did Solomon once he built the Temple).**

**The book of Hebrews tells us that, like a road map, the worship in the Tabernacle (and then Temple) was a “copy and shadow of what is in Heaven.” Hebrews 8:5.**

**p. 162**

### **What was in the Temple?**

- Carvings of plants – pomengrenate trees, candleabra like almond trees, vines, fruits, etc.

### **WHY ?**

- To remind worshippers of walking with GOD in the Garden, freely, purely. God's intent has always been to walk with His People. The Tabernacle & Temple testify to this.

### **FURTHER:**

- “In the Tabernacle, the centerpiece of worship was the sacrifice – the means of cleansing people from sin.
- In Heaven, the centerpiece of worship is the perfect sacrifice, the “Lamb who was slain.” **Revelation 5 – p.162**

**John says that Jesus as the WORD became FLESH and “dwelt” among us, and that word “dwelt” is the word also used for “tabernacled.”**

**Jesus is the New Adam who walks perfectly with God in God's Good World.**

**Jesus is the new & better sacrifice.**

**Jesus is the true & better priest.**

**Jesus, being fully God & fully man, is the place where GOD literally walks with man ... as He did in the Garden.**

**Jesus is the true & better Tabernacle, the true & better Tample.**

**For all these reasons you could say that ...**

**Jesus restored tabernacle worship in the New Testament Church.**

## **THE PSALMS**

**David was called a man after God's own heart because David loved what God loved.**

- The Psalms were Israel's Hymnbook, and the first songbook of the early church.
- Psalms are what Jesus would've learned, sang, etc.

- Give vivid description & human characteristics to nature: trees are clapping hands, stars are singing, etc. The point is that in SIMPLY doing what it is designed & built to do, nature worships God in GENERALITIES.
- Psalms show humans expressing SPECIFIC emotion/experience as worship.

**Ex: Psa. 19:0 For the director of music. A psalm of David.**

**FIRST, DAVID SHOWS CREATION'S GENERALITY. (This is the "Holy, Holy, Holy")**

**Psa. 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

**NEXT, DAVID SHOWS HUMANITY'S SPECIFICITY**

**7 The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul.**

**14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

**\*Only humanity has souls to revive, a conscious need to be pleasing, and knows God as Redeemer. (Same animal-human progression as Revelation).**

**Every Psalm was set to music and used in worship.**

- God help the musicians & singers for Psalm 119! Longest chapter of Bible!
- Can you imagine running lyrics on the projector for that?
- **PSALM 136 is WORSHIP telling a STORY that God is whom he says he is & does what he says he'll do, and he does it in the real world.**
- Note for Speaker: Read "His love endures forever" 2-3x's, and then read only the initial phrase of the verse to help emphasize the story telling as WORSHIP.

**Psa. 136:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.**

***His love endures forever.***

**5 who by his understanding made the heavens,  
*His love endures forever.***

**6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**7 who made the great lights, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**8 the sun to govern the day, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**9 the moon and stars to govern the night; ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**11 and brought Israel out from among them, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**12 with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**13 to him who divided the Red Sea asunder, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**14 and brought Israel through the midst of it, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**15 but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**16 to him who led his people through the desert, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**24 and freed us from our enemies, ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**25 and who gives food to every creature. ~~His love endures forever.~~**

**26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. ~~His love endures forever.~~**

## **NEW TESTAMENT FRAMEWORK – Revelation 4 & 5**

### **In Revelation 4:**

- The Apostle John has a vision of what is presently happening in Heaven, while he is sitting on Earth. (It's not the future; that happens in Revelation 21-22.)
- John is in God's throne room in the present and he witnesses – WORSHIP!
- First, animal-like creatures worship, they represent nature/creation.
- Second, humanity (24 elders) takes the worship deeper.

#### **Creatures:**

**4:8 Each of the four living creatures...Day and night they never stop saying:**

**“Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.”**

#### **24 Elders:**

**4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things.”**

**Creation was general; Humanity is very specific, adding depth to worship. Moving to next lines of worship, humans bring identity & explanation.**

**Revelation 5 ...the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb...**

**9 And they sang a new song:**

**“You are worthy...because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased men for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

**10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.”**

**First**, biblical worship is grounded in the fact that God is the **creator of all**.

**Second**, the task of humans is to bring to conscious **thought and expression** the worship of the rest of creation. Heaven and earth are full of God's glory, but God's image-bearing creatures, we humans, are called to know that it is so and to put it into words of praise.<sup>ii</sup>

**Third**, the result is the sweep of the **Biblical Story summed up & retold** in worship.

- John watches worship content move from Creation, thru re-telling of Crucifixion, and so on.
- The 24 Elders have been shaped by this story they are singing.
  - In other words, correctly shaped by CONTENT.
  - Are they worshipping in spirit and in truth? → YES! They're in Heaven.

**THIS SCENE IS THE REDEPTIVE HISTORICAL FINAL FULFILLMENT of all worship throughout Scripture and God's original design for humanity.**

**Let's look at ways in which JESUS and THOSE WHO BELONG TO HIM are the Redemptive Historical Fulfillment of God's Plan.**

## **REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT OF WORSHIP**

1. Nations are drawn in from wrong worship to right worship.
2. These People experience the worship realities to which the OT pointed.
3. A New People are formed.
4. This One New People take up the original vocations, which GOD gave to humans.
5. This One New People re-enact God's Redemptive story.

## **NATIONS ARE DRAWN IN**

A LIGHT TO DRAW IN THE NATIONS BECAUSE GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.

**Consider Israel's role in which they failed – they were to be a light to the nations, drawing the nations in to worship of Yahweh.**

- *Israel failed, and one reason is because of ETHNIC ARROGANCE – Prejudice.*
- *They could not come to grips with the fact that Yahweh wanted the Philistines, Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Romans, as an EQUAL PART of His Covenant People.*
- *Israel was to help MEDiate this, almost in a priestly role, but they failed.*

**We see Jesus fulfill this role in power and in beauty.**

**One instance which comes to mind is the woman at the well...**

**Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well was revolutionary because it broke down gender, racial, and ethical barriers.**

- *By their own disobedience to the job God had created them for, ETHNIC Israel proved they were NOT TRUE ISRAEL.*
- *By His perfect obedience to the job God to which God had called Israel, Jesus proves that HE IS TRUE ISRAEL.*
- *AND ... so all those who are "in Christ", his true followers, are the TRUE ISRAEL of God. Ethnicity means nothing, obedience means everything.*
- *After Jesus has drawn people in...*

## **THESE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE THE WORSHIP REALITIES TO WHICH the OT POINTED.**

1Cor. 6:9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 Corinthians 6:11 Paul gives Christians the hope that they were washed, sanctified, and justified in Jesus.**

- **Just as in OT times there were:**
  - o *Ritual washings required before one could entire God's Presence to Worship.*
  - o *Ritual sacrifices before sins could be forgiven and one could have right-standing (justification) before God.*
  - o *Jesus is the true & better washing, the true & better sacrifice, once for all. The bulls & sheep of the Old Covenant pointed towards Jesus.*

## ONE NEW PEOPLE ARE FORMED

### **GOD'S GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO CREATE FOR HIMSELF ONE WORSHIPPING PEOPLE - CHRISTIANS ARE THE TRUE "PEOPLE OF GOD."**

- *The gathered Church of Christians is the fulfillment of how Jews gathered in the OT.*

### **GOSPEL GRAMMAR**

- The OT Hebrew word for God's People when they gathered for right worship was the "QAHAL."
- By the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, all the tribes of God's People were scattered abroad, living in different cultures, different regions, with different languages. However, just as today, English is kind of like the international language in which business is done...in the 3<sup>rd</sup> cty BC, it was GREEK that became one of the primary international languages. Jews living abroad had begun to lose their heritage, ability to quickly & easily communicate in Hebrew. SO, Hebrew scholars translated the Hebrew OT into GREEK, and this translation is called the *Septuagint*.
- The GREEK WORD these Hebrew scholars used was → EKKLESIA.

**Jesus used the word *ekklesia* to describe the gathering of Christians for worship.**

**AGAIN, REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT.**

## ONE NEW & TRUE PEOPLE, TAKE ON ORIGINAL ROLES

**REMEMBER → Human beings were created to function like angled mirrors, reflecting the goodness of God into His Creation. And reflecting the praises of creation BACK to God.**

2 Cor. 3:12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**According to 2 Corinthians 3:18, when we worship God and experience His Presence we are transformed into a reflection of God.**

**Our original design, has been restored!  
And in this way we SERVE the GOD and Creation in 2 ways:**

**We remind the world that...**

**The purpose of all creation is to bring God pleasure**

**And in doing so we are MEDIATING God's Goodness to the world, mediating is a priestly role.**

**Christians are called to *latreia* which means serving or ministering as priests**

**So in expanding our understanding of WORSHIP, we see ...**

#### **REDEMPITIVE HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT OF WORSHIP**

1. Nations are drawn in from wrong worship to right worship.
2. These People experience the worship realities to which the OT pointed.
3. A New People are formed.
4. This One New People take up the original vocations, which GOD gave to humans.

**And finally (but not exhaustively)...**

### **This One New People re-enact God's Redemptive story.**

**You could say that Baptism is a reality to which the OT washings point.**

- *But also it is the reality to which Noah's Flood points*
- *It is the reality to which Naaman's washing points*
- *When the Israelites passed thru the waters of the Red Sea, from death to life, it points forward to Baptism.*

**The Lord's Supper is of course a fulfillment of the Passover Feast.**

- *When God told the Israelites to prepare and eat a spotless lamb, spreading it's blood over their doorposts so that they might delivered from death.*
- *Further, in the ANE, when 2 parties gathered at a table to share a common meal, it was often to establish a peace, maintain a peace, or celebrate a peace. Even enemies, if sitting at a common table, would keep peace during the meal.*
- *Is the Lord's Table not a table of peace?*
  - o *The Table at which GOD established & maintains our peace, and the table at which WE celebrate the reality that he has delivered us from death and into peace with Him.*

**The expressions of worship that are called "enactments" are Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper – the retelling of the Gospel by collective demonstration.**

**At Babel, build a tower in order to:**

- *Throw off God's Authority as King*
- *Glory in their own accomplishment.*
- *So by His Power ... God brought confusion by bring chaos of language.*
- *And by His Power ... God scattered them.*

**At Pentecost, we have a reversal.**

- *Men do not build a tower, but GOD builds a Church.*
- *It is not the glories of man that are proclaimed but the Glories of GOD and what he has done.*
- *Rather than chaos of language .. God brings clarity of message. All the beautiful dialects of the day are used in a redemptive fashion.*
- *Rather than confusion ... God brings comprehension of Christ. Why?*
- *So that men understand ... JESUS CHRIST is King, and He has all authority.*
- **It is a reversal of man's rebellious story, and a fulfillment of God's Redemptive Story.**

**WHY? So that you & I can be delivered from wrong worship into right worship.**

**How does glossolalia edify the individual?** Providing a deep connection to God.

**Q: Does HOW we construct our service EMBRACE the BROAD HORIZON of God's Redemption Story?**

- *In our selection of praise & worship songs?*
- *In our prayers?*
- *In our sermons?*
- *In our offering?*
- *In our greeting one another?*
- *In our STAGE SET-UP or SET DESIGN?*
- *In our Architecture?*

**Do we take into account the full horizon with which the Bible portrays worship?** (Briefly pause before proceeding)

**NOTE: ARE THERE SONGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT? YES!**

**WHAT DO THEY TELL US?**

**THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS** *(some of the following will be on your final exam)*

**Colossians 3:16** - " <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom **through** psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

**GOD'S WORD EXPLICITLY TELLS US THE FOLLOWING THINGS ABOUT CHRISTIAN SONGS:**

1. "[Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly ...](#)" - the Gospel of Jesus is to be contained fully and abundantly in what we sing. **Scripture and doctrine containing the story of Jesus are to permeate, to fill, our songs.** *Old Testament, Christ's teaching, apostolic teaching, about Jesus' redemptive work.*
2. "... [teach and admonish one another ...](#)" - our songs and singing will be sung primarily to God, but their purpose is to teach and warn / instruct one another.
3. "... [with all wisdom ...](#)" - there are two aspects of all wisdom here
  - a. All true wisdom is found "in Christ" and that is where apostolic teaching will focus and where our understanding and true wisdom will come from, and all claims to the contrary are false (1:9, 1:28, 2:3).
  - b. All of our teaching and warning-instructing in song will be done with "all wisdom", that is, in a thoughtful and tactful manner (as in 4:5 where wisdom refers to practical, realistic behavior). LOW, give careful thought to what you sing and how you sing it.
  - c. **THEREFORE**, our songs and singing will focus on the story of God, primarily the Gospel, teaching and warning-instructing one another, and will be chosen and sung in a thoughtful, tactful manner.
4. "... [psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit ...](#)" - the songs may vary in source and style, but the **content** will be **filled** with **Scripture** and the **Gospel** which are the wisdom of God, and they will be chosen and sung with wisdom, in a thoughtful, tactful manner.
5. "... [singing to God ...](#)" - although the songs teach and admonish each other, we are as a body singing **to God**. Our worship is vertical, our praise recounts the mighty acts of God in Scripture, especially the redemptive story of Jesus. **God's word says that Christian worship / singing is God-focused not human-focused, and Gospel-centered not self-centered.**
6. "... [with gratitude in your hearts.](#)" - Christians are to be thankful always, and certainly when singing, for their salvation through Jesus Christ. The disposition of gratefulness arises from the message of Christ dwelling abundantly within and among the saints. If we are filled with God's word / the Gospel, we will be a thankful people, filled with praise toward God.

**A HYMN IN PRAISE OF JESUS CHRIST** ... Paul either wrote this for this letter, or he may have taken an existing hymn and modified it slightly because it already fit very well what he needed to say ... (and given their struggles, it would have been great for the Colossian believers to sing in this modified form!). The Greek is very complex and exalted.

**Please note that fact:** The Greek and the content of the hymn would challenge the average Greek-speaker and new believer to stretch themselves theologically, linguistically, and artistically.

**Colossians 1:15-20** -

"The Son is the image of the invisible God,  
**The firstborn** over all creation.

For in him all things were created:  
 things in heaven and on earth,  
 Visible and invisible,  
 Whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;  
 All things have been created through him and for him.

He is before all things,  
 and in him all things hold together.  
 And he is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning  
**The firstborn** from among the dead,  
 So that in everything he might have the supremacy.  
 For in him God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell,  
 And through him to reconcile to himself all things,  
 Whether things on earth or things in heaven,  
 By making peace through his blood, Shed on the cross."

### **STRUCTURE ...**

This song is based on the different meanings for the Hebrew word "head".

Paul uses the different meanings to emphasize aspects of the Gospel and the nature of Christ, particularly aspects directly relevant to the Colossians' situation.

In Hebrew, "head" can mean ...

1. "Firstborn" - verses 15 and 18 ... the two major divisions of the poem / song.
2. "Supreme" - v 17 ... pre-eminent, the greatest.
3. "Head" - v 18 ... of the body, the most important part, the ruler.
4. "Beginning" - v 18 ... the one who came first, head of the line.

### **There are two balanced sections and a middle linking section:**

1. "The Son is the image of God ... the firstborn ... for in him ..." - v15, v15, v16.
2. "He is the beginning ... the firstborn ... for in him ..." - v18, v18, v19.
3. The middle section looks back to the first section and forward to the third.

### **NOTICE:**

1. The **focus** is on God's redemptive mission in Christ, creation, the Gospel, the victory of Jesus through his crucifixion, the supremacy of Christ, and ultimate reconciliation.
2. The hymn is **God-focused** and **Gospel-centered**, **NOT** focused on the *feelings, wants, or needs of humans*.
3. It uses biblical imagery and Gospel phrases to teach **sound doctrine**.
4. It contains "**complex**" words that have "**technical**" doctrinal meanings.

5. There is very little repetition.

**THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE FOLLOWING. CONSIDER THESE BIBLICAL HYMNS ...**

**Philippians 2:6-11** - <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

- <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature <sup>[a]</sup> God,  
 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
 by taking the very nature <sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
 being made in human likeness.  
<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
 he humbled himself  
 by becoming obedient to death—  
 even death on a cross!  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
 and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

**1 Tim 3:16** - <sup>16</sup>Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit,  
 was seen by angels, was preached among the nations,  
 was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory."

**Rev 5:9** - " <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying:  
 "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
 because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God  
 persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
<sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our  
 God,  
 and they will reign on the earth."

**Rev 15:3-4** - They held harps given them by God <sup>3</sup> and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.  
 Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.  
<sup>4</sup> Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?  
 For you alone are holy.  
 All nations will come and worship before you,  
 for your righteous acts have been revealed."

## Do the songs we sing conform to the Bible pattern, or to our self-centered culture?

**NOTE GOD'S WORD IN EPHESIANS 5**, set in the middle of God's instructions on how to **LIVE** and **GROW** in the Faith in **UNITY** ... *Singing solid songs teaches, matures, & brings unity!*

### THE PRACTICAL LIVING OUT OF **UNITY** – 4:17 – 6:9

#### EPHESIANS 5 ...

- A. 5:1-2 – they should walk in the way of Jesus.
- B. 5:3-17 – Paul repeatedly exhorts the believers to walk as Jesus walked, by the Spirit, and become lights in the darkness.
  - 1. Paul focuses on their corporate worship, which occurred in households (where the churches met; multiple households would meet, however many the host home could hold; parents, children (all ages), slaves, friends).
  - 2. 5:14 - A phrase from an early Christian hymn ("Awake, O sleeper, ...) is used.
  - 3. 5:18 - "be being filled with the Spirit" - be continually being filled / refilled with the Spirit. Paul emphasizes the importance of the Spirit-filled life, walking in the Spirit.
  - 4. 5:19-20 - Unity in worship! **They are to sing together!**  
 "Instead, be filled with the Spirit,<sup>19</sup> **speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.** Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,<sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
 Their Psalms (OT), hymns, and songs prompted by the Spirit, though sung as unto the Lord, were to "speak" to one another, teaching God's word and the Gospel!

### WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD TEACH US REGARDING THE SONGS WE SING?

**THAT YES, there are numerous songs in the New Testament.**

They are INTENDED as PATTERNS for our songs and singing. They illustrate REQUIREMENTS.

They are for the entire congregation to be able to sing together.

They are God-focused and Gospel-centered, NEVER human-centered or feeling-focused.

They are filled with biblical language and with the Gospel story, the message of Christ.

They are meant to teach, warn, instruct the body of Christ in God's word and the Gospel.

They never contain false doctrine, and they are very clear in the truths they do teach.

They are to be written, chosen, and sung thoughtfully and tactfully.

They do not have simplistic language and they are never highly repetitive.

**Our tastes and standards are supposed to be shaped by Scripture, NOT by culture.**

**THEREFORE**, if we violate the clear direction and standards of God's Word in the songs we sing, ...

We are poor disciples and servants at best, and rebellious false teachers at worst.

We are serving neither God nor God's People well.

If poorly written or unbiblical songs make us "feel" good and we confuse that with "the anointing", then we are malformed in our understanding and we need to mature spiritually.

If after we hear it these truths about biblical worship we reject them, we run the risk of becoming rebellious and stifling our spiritual growth and that of our congregation.

**Acceptable worship is defined by God, not by us. It is based on truth, never on feelings.**

"Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in Truth." - Jesus Christ  
 Much "Christian" "worship" today is idolatrous, a worship of our "self" and our "feelings."

**Are we ever permitted to reject God's Word on any matter and substitute our own preferences? NO!!**

**Since God's Word clearly teaches us these truths about Christian songs in these and many other passages, our "opinion" about Christian worship songs can no more differ from Scripture than can our "opinion" about doctrine or lifestyle.**

**(NOTE: BE SURE TO READ ... the hymn evaluations in Appendix 1 below. This kind of evaluation based on Colossians 3:16 and other passages, as well as all of the examples of the Psalms and the songs of the New Testament, should be done for every song we sing in church. Do the lyrics meet the biblical standard?**

**Our reaction to these evaluations in the Appendix will reveal whether our values are shaped more by Scripture or by culture, by the Spirit or by our own selfish nature.)**

## **DANGERS and PITFALLS in PENTECOSTAL / CHARISMATIC WORSHIP**

There are many dangers and pitfalls common to all denominations and styles in Christian worship. Some faith traditions are more vulnerable to certain dangers than others. **Serious Dangers and Pitfalls for P/c worship include the following ...**

- 1. Lack of coordination with - and submission to - the Lead Pastor (or to whoever is leading a particular service).**
  - a. In the New Testament, the biblical offices of ministry are Pastor-Teacher (bishop), Elders (including the Pastor), and Deacons. The Pastor-Teacher - along with the Elders - is made overseer of the flock by the Holy Spirit.
  - b. All other ministries of the church are adjunct to and supportive of the Pastoral-Teaching ministry of the Pastor-Teacher.
  - c. The songs chosen / sets created for any given service should be created to support the content of the Sermon/Teaching of the Pastor for that service.
  - d. In the NT, there is no designated ministry / ministry-gift of "worship leader(s)".
  - e. The worship leaders(s) serve under the direction of the Lead Pastor.
- 2. Lack of concern for solid biblical lyrics and sound doctrine that will teach God's Word and the Gospel to God's people.**
  - a. Related: songs chosen should have a common theme or recognizable trajectory as the set progresses, in content and in style, pace, etc.
- 3. The idea that the "worship" portion of a service - often meaning the "singing" - is just as important as the teaching and preaching of God's Word.**
- 4. The defining of "worship" to mean playing-singing of music and song.**
  - a. Scripture defines worship to include all of life ("... present your bodies a living sacrifice, ... which is your spiritual act of worship.")
- 5. The belief that a particular kind of highly emotional or passionate song service is "prophetic" in some way, that it brings a special atmosphere that releases spiritual power or gifts or enables the Pastor to preach-teach effectively.**
- 6. The false teaching of "The Tabernacle of David" as an especially anointed kind of spiritual worship that God has restored in these last days. (See Appendix 2.)**
- 7. The belief that a very emotional, passionate worship set automatically means that the Holy Spirit "moved".**
  - a. There is no biblical basis for equating a highly emotional song service with the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit.
- 8. The idea that if the Holy Spirit moves, or people are saved, or supernatural phenomena occur, that is God placing his approval on the worship leaders, the musicians, or the song content.**
- 9. The lack of concern for the inherent power of music to generate "altered states" of emotion and cognition (ability to think clearly) in participants.**

**All of the pitfalls mentioned above are particularly dangerous for P/c believers.**

*See Collateral Reading Assignment: "ALTERED STATES: The Power of Music to Alter Your Mind and Mood". ("The Power of Music", Oliver Sacks, Clinical Professor of Neurology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York NY, USA)*

## LITURGY

Get them to write down a basic service order.

Both the content of our services AND the shape of our services ... SHAPE the people in their posture or disposition towards God.

Ask them how this shapes the people?

"Now I am going to use a word that is often misunderstood and mischaracterized"

### LITURGY

- What do YOU think that means?
  - Liturgy can be described in 3 ways:
    1. The way or order by which we conduct a church service.
    2. A form into which God pours His Wonder and His Glory
    3. "The work of the people."
1. Everybody has a liturgy. It may be announcements, prayer, some music, a message, then offering.
  2. IS how we conduct a service giving GOD his proper due, by structuring it in a way which tells HIS story? Is it a good container into which He can pour his presence, and shape his people into the image of Jesus?
  3. Is the way we DO our worship services inviting people to participate?

Example of a common low church service vs. a high-church service.

Welcome

Opening Prayer (unguided)

Music

Message

Prayer

Offering

Dismissal

Welcome

Apostles Creed

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting of People

Call to Worship (lectionary Psalm or poetic passage which highlights themes in the sermon)

Music

Message

Communion & Prayer for Needs

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Announcements

Benediction

# THE CHRISTIAN YEAR - Walking Through Every Year with Jesus

**The Christian Year was born as soon as the followers of Jesus started meeting on the first day of the week in celebration of the resurrection.** In the first few centuries of the church it grew to fill the annual cycle with celebrations and observances of the main events in salvation history. Matching as nearly as possible the times of the year in which these key events occurred in Jesus' life, the same essential doctrines of our faith are covered from various perspectives every single year.

**The great majority of Christians of all faith traditions use the Christian Year to organize their discipleship, prayer, and worship.** Every year believers are challenged to enter fully into the life of Jesus by following him through these events and all that they mean for life and salvation. This annual journey retells the story of faith from beginning to end every year. It is the best overarching structure for discipleship, prayer, and worship ever given by the Holy Spirit to the Church. [The Christian Year is the Meta-liturgy of the church!](#)

**The Christian Year consists of the Cycle of Light, Cycle of Life, and Ordinary Time.**

## 1. THE CYCLE OF LIGHT

- a. Advent Season begins the Cycle of Light on the Fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.
  - i. Advent is a word that means "coming."
  - ii. Advent is a time of self-examination, seeing our need of a savior, repentance, preparing to celebrate Christ's First Advent properly, and preparing to meet Christ when He returns.
- b. Christmas Season begins on Christmas Day and celebrates the birth of Jesus for twelve days, until Epiphany.
- c. Epiphany means "revealing." It is celebrated on January 6 in the western church.
  - i. Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Magi and Jesus revelation as Light of the world who will save people from every nation.
  - ii. Epiphany also celebrates the baptism of Jesus, and his entrance into earthly ministry.
  - iii. Epiphany thrusts God's people into God's redemptive mission to all nations.
- d. SO, the Cycle of Light consists of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

## 2. THE CYCLE OF LIFE

- a. The Cycle of Life celebrates the passion, crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God and savior of the world.
  - i. The Cycle of Life includes Lenten Season, Holy Week, Resurrection Sunday, Easter Season, ending with Pentecost Sunday.
- b. Lenten Season is a forty-day season of fasting, self-examination, repentance, and preparation to remember the passion of Jesus and His resurrection.
  - i. The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday 44 days before the Last Supper on Thursday night of Holy Week. The Sundays of Lent are not days of fasting.
- c. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Resurrection Sunday, and includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday (Easter).
- d. Resurrection Sunday begins Easter Season which lasts for seven weeks and is a time of celebrating and meditating on the victory of Jesus Christ on the cross, in His resurrection, His ascension, and all that this means for humanity and eternity.
- e. Pentecost Sunday ends the Easter Season, celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers marking them as the people of God, and empowering them for world mission.

3. **ORDINARY TIME** - from "ordinal" or order; the weeks are marked 1,2,3 etc. until the next Cycle. Ordinary time is the time between the Cycle of Light and the Cycle of Life.

**By celebrating the Christian Year the Church guarantees that every cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith is taught, preached, and engaged every year by every believer.**

**A church's liturgy and celebration of the Christian Year are the major "enactments" within which all other enactments of the faith dwell.**

**According to Mark 12:28-30, the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

**The passage in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, known as the *SHEMA*, instructs us to love God with our hearts, souls, and strength.**

There is **CONTINUITY** OF worship between the Old & New Covenant.

Of course, the new portrays a fuller reality of redemption in Jesus.

Is THIS worshipping in spirit and in truth? YES! It's inspired scripture!

Put simply, the Bible tells us this...

**King David, the great worshipper & songwriter, reinforces everything we learned from John's Vision in Revelation:**

- *Worship is grounded in God being the Creator, and creation praises God.*
- *Humanity has the responsibility to bring articulation to what everything created below us...cannot put into words...articulation is our worship job.*
- *So, in worship, as image bearers, we sing the story of who God is & what God does in redemptive history.*

**Worship shapes us: we become what we sing! Everyone loves a good story.**

- *Do our songs tell God's Story?*
- *OR...are they more about us...that leads us right into...*

## **FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD CONTENT**

### **THEOLOGY & WORLDVIEW**

- **God-centered, not man-centered. (Don't have "selfie" worship!)**
  - *Is worship here to serve ME, or is it here to serve God?*
  - *Recall Bruno Mars' lyrics:*

*But swimming in your water is something spiritual*  
*I'm born again every time you spend the night*  
*'Cause your sex takes me to paradise*
  - *These are all about Bruno's own feelings & what he gets out of the exchange. Even though Bruno uses words like "born again, water, paradise, spirit," Bruno says nothing about the beauty, virtue, or goodness of the other person who "takes him to paradise."*

**Questions: Do we choose worship songs that are similar? Songs that use Christian words, but talk more about how God makes us feel than they do about God's virtue, goodness, & majesty?**

- *If we sing about excessively ourselves, we become the focus, God is no longer the focus, we are just taking "worship selfies".*
  - *Have you ever had a conversation with someone who made it ALL ABOUT THEMSELVES? It's irritating, rude, frustrating.*
- *Who God is, what God does will never change and are always true.*
- *How I feel can change by the moment, my emotions and experiences are not always truth-tellers, but quite the opposite, they are shaky & unreliable.*

- *Leading people to sing great truths about GOD gives them constancy and refuge. We build our “worship houses” on rock, rather than sand.*
  - **Trinitarian.**
    - *The Set.* Music sets should speak of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.
      - It should speak of what they have done, are doing, and will do in God's Redemptive Plan.
        - Join David & the 24 Elders in telling God's Story!
        - Some songs will mention all 3, but not what they do, we have to import what we know, and a measure of that is ok. However, our sets should still have songs that tell God's Story. (Worship becomes evangelistic storytelling).

## **ACCESSIBLE**

- **Language of Scripture, History, & Theology**
  - Challenge people to grow in their understanding of language. Bible, Theological words, etc.
    - Songs should not be mindless blathering, that's what cults do, not Christians.
    - Sending home worship devotionals can help you move in the direction you feel led. Devotions engaging the Scripture in the songs, explaining the stories of how famous songs/hymns were written, etc.
- **Music that is Culturally & Generationally Accessible**
  - Know the styles & ages of your congregants & community.
  - Meet them where they're at, but bring them along.
  - Expose people to the best of new music, not the worst.
  - Expose people to the best of old music, not the worst.
  - **Make sure it is singable by the average woman and man.**
    - *Put the song in a key the average person can sing it in!!*

## **BIBLICAL ACCURACY – what we sing shapes us**

- **Do not mischaracterize God, what God does, how God does it.**
- **Over-Feminization & Over-Romanticization of Worship Songs**
- “The Church has been over-mothered and under-fathered.” – Matt Redman
  - *Song of Solomon is not about you & Jesus.* It's about romantic love & godly sex between a man & woman. It's not about how Jesus relates to women or men. It's unhealthy for both and creepy for visitors.
  - [If you can change a few words and the song be about your wife, husband, etc., it's a poor choice for corporate worship.](#)
  - (There's a new “Bridal Paradigm” of songwriting/theology that is very imbalanced and far afield of classic theology & worship). *Corporate Worship is not the prom and Jesus is not your date.*
- **Speaking Words that God Alone is Worthy to Speak**
  - *Calling things that are not as though they were, Word of Faith, etc.*
  - *This is heresy. It is taught nowhere in Scripture. It was invented in the 1940's.*
- **Community Oriented more than Personally Oriented**

- *Biblical Worship is almost always portrayed as communal, rarely as individual. When we sing on Sundays, we are singing with all the Christians gathered on Earth, all those who are now in Heaven, and giving voice to Creation. Not every song will have communal focus, but choose many that do. It reminds people they are not alone. It is a natural guard against “selfies” and helps correct team members who want to be rock-stars.*

### **NOT OVERLY REPETITIVE & SHORT**

- *Scientific studies have proven that repetitive music with simple phrases can produce a trance-like state. We want a move of God's' Spirit which glorifies Jesus – because what we sing shapes us!*
- *Worship songs should not be as simplistic as text messages, but actually have something to say that glorifies God and shapes the worshipper into the image of Jesus.*
- *What good does it do to sing about water, rain, fire, or the enemy's camp for 15 minutes?*

**What we sing shapes us...so we shape our set well.**

### **SHAPING A WORSHIP SET**

**Styles may change:** *Southern Gospel, Choirs, Black Gospel, Rock Worship.*

**Substance must stay the same:** *The One True God, what He has done, is doing, & will do. The Scope of Salvation History.*

### **RESURGENCE OF OLD HYMNS & CREEDS, WRITING OF NEW HYMNS IN WORSHIP MUSIC**

- *One of the absolute best things that has happened for the Body of Christ. (Some of these artists will be listed under additional resources)*
- *Tend to be higher quality lyrics, in content, in creativity, poetic, etc.*
- *These tend to convey the following:*
  - *Incorporating Creation*
  - *Trinitarian*
  - *Christ Focus*
  - *Communal (Build Community)*

*“Pastors, parents, worship leaders: Are you teaching any songs that can be sung acapella around a hospital bed in 50 years?” – John Piper*

**Every service is telling a story of it's own, play your role well.**

**Choose songs to complement the message of your pastor, the time of the Christian Year, and the needs of your church.**

**Choose songs that will accomplish the shaping of us into Christ's Image.**

### **Choose songs that shape people well:**

- *Get everyone “together” at the start.*
- *Invite them into God's Story.*
- *Make them think/sing correctly about who God is & what God does.*

- *Hold Jesus High: Death, Resurrection, & Final Victory.*
- *Give an opportunity to receive joy, respond back to God in joy.*

### **Here are Sample Sets from Worship Pastors.**

### **They list the Song Name, Artist, and Reason for Selection.**

### **Look up lyrics on your own.**

#### **SAMPLE SET #1**

- ***Our God Saves – Paul Baloche (Live Version)***
  - *Trinitarian, Communal, Great Opener.*
- ***All Creatures of Our God and King – David Crowder Band (Illuminate)***
  - *Updated Classic Hymn, Calls All Creation to Praise, Trinitarian.*
- ***Amazing Grace (How I Love You Lord) – Gabriel Wilson***
  - *Updated Hymn, Themes of Grace, God giving us himself, Many non-believers have a cultural knowledge of this song.*
- ***Overcome (This is My Story) – New Life Worship***
  - *Contemporary, Strong retelling of the Person, Death, & Victory of Jesus and in him the victory of all believers. Powerful.*

#### **SAMPLE SET #2**

- ***O For 1000 Tongues – Gateway Worship***
  - *Communal in the Scope of Human History, A Gathering Song, Updated Classic Hymn.*
- ***Hallelujah to My King – Paul Baloche***
  - *Trinitarian, Lifts up Jesus, Themes of Adoption, Grace, Welcoming of Sinners, Mercy, the Return of Jesus. Mid-Tempo, Hymn-like.*
- ***In Christ Alone – Keith & Kristyn Getty***
  - *One of the best & most Christ-centered songs you'll find. Walks you thru the Incarnation, Life, Death, Resurrection, & Final Victory of Jesus and in him the victory of believers.*
- ***Once and For All – Passion / Chris Tomlin***
  - *Tells the story of Jesus from John 1, and contains lyrics from the Nicene Creed.*
- ***All the People Said Amen! – Matt Maher***
  - *Communal, Upbeat, Encouraging, Fun, Everyone is the same in that we need mercy & forgiveness, we need God & each other.*

### **TIPS – What content are you communicating physically?**

- **Body Language.** It matters, don't be a slouch.
- **Smile.** Often during more intense or powerful worship we furrow our brow and end up looking angry or like we're in great pain. Be mindful not to.
- **Lifted Hands, Clapping, Praying, etc.** Lead by example; don't ask the congregation to do it if your team isn't going to do it.
- **Attitude.** Character is more important than charisma, and a teachable spirit is better than the best talent. Have the attitude of Christ – Philippians 2

- **Enjoy Worship & Have Fun.** If you look/act miserable, what content does that communicate to the church? You've been saved from yourself, from sin, Satan, death, & hell. You've been saved for Jesus, for His People, Forever. Be excited, be joyful, have fun.

## **FINAL WORD**

Christian worship is dramatic, performative, setting out and celebrating God's story with the world; to tamper with it on a whim is a form of arrogant vandalism. The biblical story from Genesis to Revelation is a great drama, a great saga, a play written by the living God and staged in his wonderful creation; and in liturgy, whether sacramental or not, we become for a moment not only spectators of this play but also willing participants in it. It is not our play; it is God's play, and we are not free to rewrite the script. We cannot read the whole Bible in each worship service, but the selections we choose (and songs we sing)... should reflect the larger story and remind us of its full sweep and flow."

- Tom Wright, Pastor & NT Scholar

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Rev. Tom Wright lecture - *Freedom and Framework, Spirit and Truth: Recovering Biblical Worship* (Originally published in *Studia Liturgica* 2002, 32, 176-95.)

## **RELIABLE RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN WORSHIP - PUBLIC and PRIVATE**

Keith & Kristen Getty  
 Stuart Townend  
 CityAlight  
 Indelible Grace  
 Matt Boswell  
 Matt Papa  
 Shane & Shane  
 Matt Redman  
 Fernando Ortega  
 Andrew Peterson

There are several other trustworthy ministers and artists who are part of trustworthy communities of faith (local churches / denominations) and who are writing consistently good worship songs today.

However, there are also many artists whose doctrine and whose lyrical content are not trustworthy at all. They consistently write false teaching or shallow, human-centered lyrics into their songs.

**Finally**, there are some artists who **occasionally** write a good song, **but** whose songs are **often not trustworthy and who attend churches that regularly teach false doctrine or aberrant lifestyles**. *Please be very careful about singing "good" songs from such artists or such churches ... many of your listeners may be too biblically illiterate and easily influenced to discern the dangerous doctrines and practices of such people and churches.*

## APPENDIX 1 - SONGS EVALUATED BIBLICALLY (Col 3:16, etc.)

### Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Charitie Bancroft / Vikki Cook

Before the Throne of God Above lyrics

© Capitol Christian Music Group

#### LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation, cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations, judgment, eternity.

Not every song will have all things present.  
How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused and truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and God's Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of average men and women?

**DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS** that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?

Does this song conform to the standards we see set in the New Testament?  
Or in the Psalms?

Would this song be more of a hymn or a testimony song?

Please find this song on YouTube and listen to it all the way through.

# One Thing Remains

Higher than the mountains that I face  
 Stronger than the power of the grave  
 Constant through the trial and the change  
 One thing remains  
 This one thing remains

Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me

Because on and on and on and on it goes  
 Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul  
 And I never, ever, have to be afraid  
 One thing remains  
 This one thing remains

Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me

Your love  
 In death, and in life  
 I'm confident and covered by the power of your great love  
 My debt is paid, there's nothing that can separate  
 My heart from Your great love

Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me, it never fails

On and on  
 Your love goes on and on  
 Singing your love  
 Your love goes on and on  
 His love goes on and on  
 Sing it  
 Because on and on and on and on it goes  
 Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul  
 And I never, ever, have to be afraid  
 This one thing remains  
 This one thing remains

Your love never fails  
 Your love never fails  
 Your love never fails  
 Your love never fails  
 Your love never fails me  
 Your grace never fails me

Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me

It's a great love  
 It's a great love  
 Oh, it's a great love  
 Your love, Your love, Your love, Your love  
 It's a great love  
 Your love abounds  
 Your love abounds  
 All this stuff is shadow play  
 Your love, Your love, Your love, Your love

Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me  
 Your love never fails, and never gives up  
 It never runs out on me

Your love  
 It's still alive in your love  
 Your love, Your love, Your love  
 It's your love,  
 it's Your love  
 It never fails, it never fails,  
 it never fails, it never fails.

Songwriters: Brian Johnson / Christa Black / Jeremy Riddle  
 One Thing Remains lyrics © Bethel Music Publishing, Music Services, Inc

***By any measure that is Christian, this is a bad song.  
 It is hardly a Christian song at all.  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are absent.  
 It could easily be a boy singing of his girlfriend.  
 There is no gospel, no Scripture, no Christian doctrine.  
 It is repetitive, feeling-centered, self-centered, banal.  
 A perfect example of what we should not waste time singing.  
 Compare it to the other songs provided.  
 This song violates the standards set in Scripture.***

# Arise My Soul Arise

## Indelible Grace

Arise, my soul, arise,  
Shake off your guilty fears;  
The bleeding sacrifice,  
In my behalf appears;  
Before the throne my Surety stands,  
Before the throne my Surety stands,  
My name is written on His hands.

*(chorus)* ... Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise  
Arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.

He ever lives above,  
For me to intercede;  
His all redeeming love,  
His precious blood, to plead;  
His blood atoned for every race,  
His blood atoned for every race,  
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

*(chorus)*

Five bleeding wounds He bears;  
Received on Calvary;  
They pour effectual prayers;  
They strongly plead for me:  
"Forgive him, O forgive, " they cry,  
"Forgive him, O forgive, " they cry,  
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

*(chorus)*

The Father hears him pray,  
His dear anointed One;  
He cannot turn away  
The presence of His Son;  
The Spirit answers to the blood,  
The Spirit answers to the blood,  
And tells me I am born of God.

*(chorus)*

My God is reconciled;  
His pardoning voice I hear;  
He owns me for His child;  
I can no longer fear  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
And "Father, Abba, Father, " cry.

*(chorus)*

*(Charles Wesley, Kevin Twit)*

### LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation,  
cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations,  
judgment, eternity.

Not every song will have all things present.  
How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused and  
truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and God's  
Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of  
average men and women?

***DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?***

Does this song conform to the standards we see  
set in the New Testament?  
Or in the Psalms?

Would this song be more of a hymn or a testimony  
song?

Please find this song on YouTube and listen to it all  
the way through.

# The Lord Is My Salvation

"The grace of God has reached for me  
And pulled me from the raging sea  
And I am safe on this solid ground  
The Lord is my salvation.

I will not fear when darkness falls  
His strength will help me scale these walls  
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun  
The Lord is my salvation.

Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won  
The Lord is my salvation.

My hope is hidden in the Lord  
He flow'rs each promise of His Word  
When winter fades I know spring will come  
The Lord is my salvation.

In times of waiting, times of need  
When I know loss, when I am weak  
I know His grace will renew these days  
The Lord is my salvation.

Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won  
The Lord is my salvation.

And when I reach my final day  
He will not leave me in the grave  
But I will rise,  
He will call me home  
The Lord is my salvation.

Who is like the Lord our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won  
The Lord is my salvation.

Glory be to God the Father  
Glory be to God the Son  
Glory be to God the Spirit  
The Lord is our salvation

Keith Getty

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

## LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation,  
cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations,  
judgment, eternity.

## Not every song will have all things present.

How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused and  
truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and God's  
Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of  
average men and women?

**DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS** that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?

Does this song conform to the standards we see set in the New Testament?  
Or in the Psalms?

Would this song be more of a hymn or a testimony song?

Please find this song on YouTube and listen to it all the way through.

## DEEP CRIES OUT

I've got a river of living water  
A fountain that never will run dry  
It's open Heavens You're releasing  
And we will never be denied

Cause we're stirring up deep deep wells  
We're stirring up deep deep waters  
We're going to dance in the river, dance in the river  
Cause we're stirring up deep deep wells  
We're stirring up deep deep waters  
We're going to jump in the river  
Jump in the river and everybody singing now

Deep cries out to deep cries out to  
Deep cries out to deep cries out to  
So we cry out to, we cry out to, You Jesus

We're falling into deeper waters, calling out to You  
We're walking into deeper waters, going after You

If He goes to the left then we'll go to the left  
And if He goes to the right then we'll go to the right  
We're going to jump jump jump jump in the river  
Jump jump jump jump, everybody  
If He goes to the left then we'll go to the left  
And if He goes to the right then we'll go to the right  
We're going to dance dance, dance dance in the river  
Dance dance, dance dance, everybody  
If He goes to the left then we'll go to the left  
And if He goes to the right then we'll go to the right  
We're going to shout shout shout shout in the river  
Shout shout shout shout in the river, everybody

(William Mathews, Amanda Gilbertson, & Christiann Koepke Bethel Music Publishing 2010, Bethel Live, Be Lifted High, 2010)

### LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Clearly biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation, cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations, judgment, eternity.

### Not every song will have all things present.

How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused and truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and God's Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of average men and women?

***DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS*** that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?

Does this song conform to the standards we see set in the New Testament?  
Or in the Psalms?

***By any measure that is Christian, this is a bad song.***

*It is barely a Christian song.*

***It could easily be a girl singing of her boyfriend, Jesus.***

***There is no gospel, no Scripture, no Christian doctrine.***

***It is repetitive, feeling-centered, self-centered, banal.***

*A perfect example of what we should not waste time singing.*

*Compare it to the other songs provided.*

***This song violates the standards set in Scripture.***

## SAVED

I was blinded by the devil,  
Born already ruined, Stone-cold dead  
As I stepped out of the womb.  
By His grace I have been touched,  
By His word I have been healed,  
By His hand I've been delivered,  
By His Spirit I've been sealed.

I've been saved By the blood of the lamb,  
Saved By the blood of the lamb,  
And I'm so glad. Yes, I'm so glad,  
I want to thank You, Lord,  
I just want to thank You, Lord,  
Thank You, Lord.

By His truth I can be upright,  
By His strength I do endure,  
By His power I've been lifted,  
In His love I am secure.  
For He bought me with a price,  
Freed me from the pit,  
Full of emptiness and wrath  
And the fire that burns in it.

I've been saved By the blood of the lamb,  
Saved By the blood of the lamb,  
And I'm so glad. Yes, I'm so glad,  
I want to thank You, Lord,  
I just want to thank You, Lord,  
Thank You, Lord.

Nobody to rescue me,  
Nobody would dare,  
I was going down for the last time,  
But by His mercy I've been spared.  
Not by works, by faith in Him who called,  
For so long I've been hindered,  
For so long I've been stalled.

Now I've been saved!  
By the blood of the lamb,  
And I'm so glad.  
Yes, I'm so glad, I'm so glad,  
I want to thank You, Lord,  
I just want to thank You, Lord,  
Thank You, Lord!

### LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Clearly biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation,  
cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations,  
judgment, eternity.

### Not every song will have all things present.

How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused and  
truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and God's  
Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of  
average men and women?

**DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS** that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?

Would this song be more of a hymn or a testimony song?

Does this song conform to the standards we see set in the New Testament?  
Or in the Psalms?

# Christ Is Mine Forevermore

[CityAlight](#)

Mine are days that God has numbered  
I was made to walk with Him  
Yet I look for worldly treasure  
And forsake the King of kings.  
But mine is hope in my Redeemer  
Though I fall, his love is sure  
For Christ has paid for every failing  
I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow  
Darkness not yet understood  
Through the valley I must travel  
Where I see no earthly good.  
But mine is peace that flows from heaven  
And the strength in times of need  
I know my pain will not be wasted  
Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger  
Pilgrim on a narrow way  
One with Christ I will encounter  
Harm and hatred for his name.  
But mine is armor for this battle  
Strong enough to last the war  
And he has said he will deliver  
Safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city  
Where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its treasure  
Christ is mine forevermore.

Come rejoice now, O my soul  
For his love is my reward  
Fear is gone and hope is sure  
Christ is mine forevermore!  
Come rejoice now, O my soul  
For his love is my reward  
Fear is gone and hope is sure  
Christ is mine forevermore!

And mine are keys to Zion city  
Where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its treasure  
Christ is mine forevermore  
Christ is mine forevermore  
Christ is mine forevermore!

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

## LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation,  
cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations,  
judgment, eternity.

Not every song will have all things present.  
How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused  
and truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and  
God's Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of  
average men and women?

***DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?***

Please find this song on YouTube and listen to it all the way through.

# JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Indelible Grace Music

1. Jesus, I my cross have taken  
All to leave and follow Thee  
Destitute, despised, forsaken  
Thou from hence my all shall be  
Perish every fond ambition  
All I've sought or hoped or known  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heaven are still my own.

2. Let the world despise and leave me  
They have left my Savior, too  
Human hearts and looks deceive me  
Thou art not, like them, untrue  
O while Thou dost smile upon me  
God of wisdom, love, and might  
Foes may hate, and friends disown me  
Show Thy face and all is bright.

3. Man may trouble and distress me  
Twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest  
Oh, tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

4. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure  
With Thy favor, loss is gain.  
I have called Thee Abba Father  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather  
All must work for good to me.

5. Soul, then know thy full salvation  
Rise o'er sin and fear and care  
Joy to find in every station  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee  
Think what Father's smiles are thine,  
Think that Jesus died to win thee,  
Child of heaven, canst thou repine?

6. Haste thee on from grace to glory  
Armed by faith and winged by prayer  
Heavens eternal days before thee,  
Gods own hand shall guide us there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days  
Hope shall change to glad fruition  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

## LOOK FOR IN THIS SONG ...

Accurate mention of Father, Son, Spirit.  
Biblical quotations or allusions.  
Biblical metaphors, images, types.  
Accurate biblical doctrine.  
The gospel: redemption story.  
Exaltation of Father, Son, Spirit.  
The story from creation, through incarnation,  
cross, resurrection, ascension, salvations,  
judgment, eternity.

*Not every song will have all things present.*  
How much does this song have?  
Is it primarily God-centered or man-centered?  
Is it primarily feeling-focused or faith-focused  
and truth-focused?  
Is it highly repetitive or is it artful and poetic?  
Does it teach God's people the gospel and  
God's Word?  
Is it accessible, singable by a congregation of  
average men and women?

**DOES IT CONTAIN CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL TRUTHS** that will teach God's people the truths of the gospel and of Scripture, enabling them to mature, grow stronger, be encouraged, grow closer to God, defeat the enemy and unbelievers when those attack the believer's faith?

Please find this song on YouTube and listen to it all the way through.

## APPENDIX 2 - A FALSE TEACHING about WORSHIP

### A FALSE TEACHING about WORSHIP: The TABERNACLE of DAVID

(Acts 15)

#### I. False Teaching About “End-times” Worship – the Tabernacle of David

**A modern worship heresy is the false teaching called the “Tabernacle of David.”**

Based on a false interpretation of Acts 15:15-18 (which quotes Amos 9:11-12 and alludes to Isaiah 45:21), this false teaching claims that near Christ’s Second Coming, God will restore a special kind of anointed praise and prayer similar to the supposedly unique style and spirit of David’s, and that this will be especially precious to God, will have great power in spiritual warfare, and will be practiced by truly spiritual people, God’s elite.

**No Bible scholar of any kind believes this!**

**Acts 15:12-18** “**12** The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. **13** When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. **14** Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. **15** The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: **16** " 'After this I will return and **rebuild David's fallen tent**. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, **17** that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' **18** that have been known for ages.”

#### **Amos 9:11-12 Israel’s Restoration**

**11** "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent.

I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins,  
and build it as it used to be,

**12** so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name, " declares the LORD, who will do these things.

In context, James is declaring, and Luke records, that the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the inclusion of gentiles in God’s People with Jews by grace through faith is the manner in which God HAS already restored David’s fallen tent.

**This is how God HAS renewed and restored Israel:** by sending Messiah, by raising him from the dead, by his ascension, by the Spirit’s outpouring, and by combining Jews and gentiles into One People of God.

**Jesus, the Apostles, and the ancient Church saw this as happening in a continuous, undifferentiated manner throughout the “last days,” from the Day of Pentecost until the Day of the Lord.**

The “Tabernacle of David” false teaching has been claiming for 60 years that God was raising up some kind of super-spiritual elite to fight the devil and get the church good enough for Jesus to return. This is just the opposite of what Scripture teaches about God’s People and the “last days.”

There was no special kind of tabernacle built by David on Mt Zion where unique, Spirit-directed praise was practiced that was different from the Tabernacle and Temple ritual.

Yahweh tolerated no kind of rival shrines or worship sites.

**Everything** revolved around the Tabernacle, and then the Temple.

And, it is CERTAIN that James' words in Acts 15 CANNOT refer to such a place.

### **THE PROBLEMS with this false teaching:**

1. The false Tabernacle of David teaching is unscriptural – this doctrine is taught NOWHERE in Scripture.
2. This teaching is anti-Scriptural – it teaches things directly opposed to what God says in his Word.
3. ALL of God's true people are a royal priesthood, and it is IN CHRIST, and NOT in a particular kind of worship, that we have access to the Father.
4. This false teaching creates a special spiritual "elite" among God's people who must do the truly powerful worship that gets God's attention, drives back the enemy, and opens the heavens.
5. This kind of pride and elitism is taught nowhere in Scripture.
6. Worship forms, practices, songs, etc., change over time and over cultures. While some are BETTER and MORE BIBLICAL than others, no particular form or style has been endorsed in Scripture.
7. This teaching claims that only those initiated into this super-spiritual kind of warfare worship can truly worship God to his complete satisfaction, and truly break the powers of darkness.
8. This false teaching claims that this "restoration of the Tabernacle of David" is both a sign that Christ's coming is imminent and is a key to purifying the church to make her WORTHY of Christ's return.
9. The kind of worship advocated by this teaching addicts people to high-energy, highly emotionally charged worship, making them to believe they have not "worshipped" unless they have this very emotional "experience."
10. Worship that God desires must be worship in spirit (genuine, sincere) and in Truth (biblically true CONTENT ... It's all about the WORDS, the LYRICS.)
11. However emotional or passionate I may be in worship, if I am insincere (my life does not match my words) OR if the content is unbiblical, I have not worshipped God acceptably. I may have a very cathartic experience, but that's all it is.

**I am aware of NO biblical scholar – Pentecostal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Lutheran, Nazarene, Methodist, etc., etc. – who disagrees with what IS written here.**

**Those who teach contrary to this are teaching a dangerous false doctrine. God gives us no specific sign that will tell us Christ's coming is at the door.**

**SO, when** you hear someone teaching this kind of thing, you should REJECT that teaching as false, and mark that teacher as highly SUSPECT, a poorly trained and on this doctrine a deceived person.

### **CONCLUSION**

One of the problems with both of these errors is the damage they do to believers.

Some are made to feel super-spiritual, elite, proud, God's special agents.

Others are made to feel they are second-class or are missing what "God is doing in the earth."

AND, part of the problem is the wide-spread misunderstanding among

Pentecostals-charismatics of what the Bible means when it says “last days.”

**SO, people are made to fear all the time:**

- fear they are missing God’s outpouring;
- fear they are missing out on being one of God’s green berets;
- fear they are missing true worship if they don’t have a powerful emotional experience;
- fear they are not working or praying or giving frantically enough because it is the “last hour.”
- 

**BELOVED, DO NOT BE AFRAID, and DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED!**

The “last days” started with Jesus and will continue until Jesus returns.

We have no idea when Jesus will return, so we must be ready at all times.

ALL of God’s People are eligible to be filled with his Spirit and be part of his ONE great People (i.e., [there is NO Davidic / Joel / Elijah generation](#)).

ALL of God’s People may worship him acceptably in spirit and in truth, because we are ALL a part of God’s True People in Christ, David’s restored tent.

*PRAY, STUDY GOD’S WORD, BE FAITHFUL IN CHURCH, SHARE CHRIST WITH OTHERS, JUST KEEP GROWING IN GOD’S LIFE AND BLESSING, and LEAVE THE TIMING OF CHRIST’S COMING IN GOD THE FATHER’S HANDS!*

**(NOTE:** The study and conclusions presented here regarding Acts 15 and the Tabernacle of David are not a matter of “opinion” or simply one person’s “interpretation.” This paper presents the consensus perspective of all genuine biblical scholars. It is simply not possible that the heretical teachings described here are true. It is certain that the perspective on Acts 15 presented here as correct is indeed correct.)

