

Bryan Chapell: Christ-Centered Worship

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Summary

The book is sectioned into two parts. In Part 1, “Gospel Worship,” Chappell is building his case in the importance of Gospel Worship . In Part 2 Chappell is providing the praxis; the helpful tools of application for “Gospel Worship Resources. Part 1 of the book is the foundation of worship and it easy to see how the reader would spend a lot of time in this section of the book prior to tapping into the resources and practical application of Christ Centered Worship. It was a great read over all in my opinion as I was familiar with the author from another one of his publications entitled “ Christ Centered Preaching” It is clear that the author is passionate about ministry in every aspect being Christ centered. In agreement with the author the gospel makes the difference in everything that we do. I mention this other book because the author demonstrates that regulating worship by the scriptures is the surest way to help the worshiper see what he or she needs most the gospel.

Interaction and Critique and book over-view

- I. On worldview- The author shares in the start of the book that it is his hope that the readers will discover that their worship pattern unites them with multiple centuries of fellow Christians who have worshiped similarly. He mentions that it will also be delighted to find how their worship can unite them in mission with those fellow believers. In every century, we worship God to further the cause of his gospel. Chapter 6 titled “ The Modern Story” Chapell makes it clear that traditional worship needs to be open to new age worship and that new age worship needs to be receiving of traditional worship. Both cultures need to be adaptive to one another. Tradition can not be so stern that its to

ridge to expand and growth and Modern worship can not be so wide and loose that it has lost its place of origin.

- II. The theology of worship “Liturgy tells a story. We tell the gospel by the way we worship. Where a church maintains the truth of the gospel, it inevitably discovers aspects of worship that are in harmony with other churches. In fact, worshiping with these aspects is one important way a church maintains fidelity with the gospel.” (19). This is an agreeable statement in the book because the gospel of Christ and his present purpose is indeed a story and it should be shared in a way that it is understood fully. When worship is convoluted and unorganized it aims a miss.

“Worship cannot simply be a matter of arbitrary choice, church tradition, personal preference or cultural appeal. There are foundational truths in the gospel of Christ’s redeeming work that do not change if the gospel is to remain the gospel. So, if our worship structures are to tell this story consistently, then there must be certain aspects of our worship that remain consistent” (85).

- III. The praxis of worship- The second section of the book from chapters 7 forward the light of how to apply the foundation is clearly shared.

Chapter 7, “The Gospel Story,” is the heart of the book—the culmination of the mounting argument which preceded and the bedrock on which all subsequent discussion stands.

Chapell ties all the preceding liturgies together around a broad theme.

Chapter 7. This chapter analyzes the two-part liturgy as it developed in the pre-Reformational Roman church. This and subsequent chapters analyze liturgy and liturgical flow roughly around the following progression:

After having read through the previous six chapters, one suddenly realizes the connection and the unifying factor throughout the history of Christian worship which is the gospel. If the church's worship is fueled by the gospel, then her liturgy will ultimately become shape like the gospel. The implications for worship planning are remarkable and profound. Planned and practice worship prior to the service makes a grand entrance for the presence of the Holy Spirit. The components for Christ Centered Worship are listed as the following: Scriptural, pastoral, choral, unison, responsive, songs and hymns, prayers music, creeds and affirmations, sermons, sacraments, expressions of fellowship, ministry and testimony reports, ordinations and commissioning's. (145-146). Chapell shares "We do not have to abandon the gospel to keep worship alive; and we are more likely to keep multiple generations in worship when our liturgy is informed by our traditional routines rather ruled by them. It will only serve the church best if we consistently honor the past and tradition we need to build on.

- Adoration
- Confession and Assurance
- Thanksgiving
- Petition
- Instruction
- Response

The Mission of Christ Centered Worship Chapter 10 _Chapell also provides an overview of the evolution of worship in the modern church. Characterized by a desire “to connect with people” (70), churches in the twentieth century began to elevate connecting emotionally with people over engaging with God on the terms he alone has the authority to set and by which his people are graciously invited to respond.

The remaining Chapters 12-24 are filled with great reflection and suggestions for each of the major liturgical areas outline in the gospel-paradigm. The book closes with some helpful resources for varying musical styles (Chapter 24). This section would be a great tool for the minister of music, the pastor of praise and worship and all leadership looking to develop a worship atmosphere that is not only Christ centered but also Christ filled. The book as I shared earlier in this review met my expectations based on the authors intent to thread Christ Centered movements and moments throughout the Kingdom of God. I do believe that this book is a practical tool and necessary even in position in my church as servant leader assisting others with church development.

Bibliography

Chapell, Bryan. Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice. [S.l.]: Baker Book House, 2017.