

The Beauty of His Holiness

1 Chronicles 16:22-29

1 Chronicles 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

January 10, 2016

Introduction:

The passage that we are looking at today is part of David's Psalm of Thanks, 8-36. (this section, vv. 23-33 is found in Psalm 96:1b-13a). This Psalm exhorts the Children of God to praise Jehovah and the Creator. Six time in these eight verses David refers to Jehovah, the personal and covenant keeping God of Israel.

The reason for the psalm and the praise is that the Ark was finally going to be placed in Jerusalem. The presence of God was returning in the midst of the people. That is reason to sing and praise God.

On any typical Sunday morning, people pile into their local church. We all come with a different agenda. According to a Gallup Research poll¹, they wanted to find out, "Just why do Americans attend church?" Their findings are interesting.

How often do you attend church or synagogue - 31% reporting attending once a week, 12% almost every week, 15% about once a month, 28% seldom, and 14% never.

The reason given for Adults who say they attend at least once a month -the top reasons; 1) for spiritual growth and guidance, 2) keeps me grounded/inspired, 3) It's my faith. The 4th reason is to worship God.

I read an article this week suggesting that "In our church and in every church, a trap is set for us. We often come in tired from our week, thinking about other things, and go through the worship service in a daze, singing without taking the words to heart, or closing our eyes without really praying."

Since we are dedicating 2016 as the Year of Worship, I would like to look at our Scripture today for reminders on how the Lord wants us to worship.

¹ Just Why Do Americans Attend Church, Gallup Poll published online on April 6, 2007

Give the LORD Glory

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name

Before we do anything else concerning worship, let us “Give Glory to His Name.

Before we sit down in the pew. Before we sing. Before we look at the bulletin. Before we hear the announcements or sing happy birthday. Before we pray, let us consider the LORD and bring Glory to His name.

The Hebrew word for glory, *kabowd*, means "figuratively weight in a good sense; splendor, honor." When we worship, we are giving Him *weight* in our lives. Many things are important to us: family, friends, possessions, jobs, etc. God wants us to put more weight to our relationship with Him than in any other relationship.

The word glory also carries the meaning of giving God honor and splendor. Let us imagine the LORD seated on His throne in heaven. What does that look like in your mind? In the Revelation, John identifies the splendor of the LORD in heaven as;

Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The Hebrews had a special name for the LORD, it is Jehovah; it means a covenant-keeping, personal God. Just for a moment, on this Sunday morning, would you consider the LORD and give Him His glory?

Bring the LORD a Gift

...bring an offering

We are just leaving the Christmas season. Why is Christmas such a big hit throughout the world? I believe it carries a special place because gifts are given to those that we love. I love seeing the grandkids open presents and then receive thanks and hugs. We love to give presents to those that I have a personal connection with.

God understands this very well. If we are to worship God, the natural response would be to give presents to the One we love...*bring an offering*. God is entitled to our honor, respect, reverence, tribute, praise, and worship from His children.

This word "offering" carries with it the idea of bringing a donation, a gift, or a present to our meeting with the Lord. Many of you bring your offering in the form of a monetary offering to Him. This offering is to be given freely, meaning it is not to be coerced. God has given us so much and we return a small portion of what He has allowed us to earn on a weekly basis. By bringing an offering, we give glory to His name. I will not get into the tithe, as that should be settled with every believer. God gave the greatest gift of His Son to us. Therefore, shouldn't we gratefully and graciously give back to the ministry of the Lord? Of course we should. Our offerings should be given with great Joy...give Him your worship by your offering.

Be In His Presence

... come before him

According to the Gallop Poll I referred to earlier, 69% attend a church service less than one time per week. There are many verses that encourage routine attendance, such as:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

God wants more from you than lip service. He wants you to "come before Him." While it is true that coming before God is not just church attendance, regular attendance is "medicine for the soul." I routinely visit the dining room table. I approach it to rest, eat and have conversation with those in attendance. I attend church for exactly the same reasons. I rest, eat and converse with those in attendance. This is what God demands from us. "come before him."

While we cannot physically see God on this earth (Exodus 33:20), we can “come before him” spiritually. God wants us to make a habit of entering into His presence. This is where the fellowship, confession of our sins and worship takes place.

Worship the LORD

...worship the LORD.

The Hebrew word for worship is *shachah* (shaw-khaw) and means to press down, prostrate, bow down, crouch, fall down, obeisance. It also means to humbly beseech. So to worship suggests two actions: physical and spiritual.

For me, the main ingredient in worship is humility on the part of the worshiper. Therefore, worship is not to be showy, on the contrary, it is to be done in a physical position of humility; bow down, lay prostrate, and a spiritual condition of a humble and contrite heart. David also wrote the 51st Psalm which says:

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

...in the beauty of holiness

In his commentary of this passage, J. Vernon McGee has this to say concerning the “beauty of holiness.”

This does not simply mean to worship Him in a beautiful church. It means to worship Him in the beauty of holiness, all that He is in His person. Most of us don’t even know what it is to worship God. Right now as we read this psalm, don’t you really feel like just saying a little “Amen” or a “Glory to God” or a “Praise the Lord”—not as little Christian cliches but from the depth of your heart? How wonderful He is!²

Just as there is great beauty in the creation; grand vistas, amazing sunsets, and the glory of the heavens, there is an awesome beauty to be seen and experienced in the glory of God. God’s actions display his power and splendor. Surely the LORD God Almighty deserves holy worship.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word “beauty” carries the idea of “adornment or decoration.” When Moses came down from the mountain where he had been with God, Moses face shined. So much so that he had to wear a veil (Ex. 33:19ff.). Shouldn’t our faces glow with the beauty of His holiness today. Shouldn’t

² McGee, J. V. (1997). *Thru the Bible commentary* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 381). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

our countenance be revealed to others as the glory of His great beauty in a darkened, sin laden world?
Shouldn't people know that we have been in the presence of God as we leave this sanctuary this morning?

Jesus said:

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

When we are in the presence of the LORD and Jesus Christ this morning. Therefore,

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Conclusion

It is clear that David was exhorting the people to worship the LORD. Praise and worship of God should come naturally from within each of us. And the presence of God in our lives should show on our faces so that others may see the "beauty of His holiness." When people see the LORD in us, they will want to know more about the Savior, Jesus Christ, that we worship.

Shine today my brothers and sister. Let our light be places high, so that the world may see Jesus.

Needtobreathe - Multiplied

Your love is like radiant diamonds

Bursting inside us we cannot contain

Your love will surely come find us

Like blazing wildfires singing Your name

God of mercy sweet love of mine

I have surrendered to Your design

May this offering stretch across the skies

These Hallelujahs be multiplied