



Study Guide 29 July 2018

Sermon: Worshiping God Together in Song

Text: Col 3:15-17 and Eph 5:17-21

Hello! This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage that was preached the preceding Sunday with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to budget sufficient time for application questions. A recommendation would be to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused.

The context of the passage in Colossians

Colossians is a book about how Christ is the Lord of creation. He has redeemed his people from sin and enables us to share in his death and resurrection. Through the gospel, we have taken off our old selves and put on Christ. Because we are a new creation in Christ, we are to grow to maturity by putting on the fullness of Christ. It is in this context, that in Col 3:15-17 Paul explains to the church what worshipping God is all about.

The context of the passage in Ephesians

Ephesians is a letter is about gospel. The first three chapters explain the gospel in glorious detail, then in the second half, the letter explains what the gospel means for our lives. Ephesians 5 gets very practical. Part of practical worship is gathering together and edifying one another because of the gospel.

Big Idea of the Study

The gospel shows us that worship matters to God in that he would send his own Son to the cross to make sinners into worshippers. Our service to God is predicated upon the service of Christ toward us. He is the chief edifier and calls us to edify one another as we gather. Through the gospel, we are his body and have a responsibility to edify one another. One of the means of doing so is in song as we recount the glorious truths of God and the gospel together as his people.

Opening Question

Q. Can you identify what the different elements of our Sunday worship are? Why do you think our services at RHC shaped the way they are?

Recap from the sermon

Q. What is worship and why is worship important to God?

Let's read:

- *Colossians 3:15-17*

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- *Ephesians 5:17-21*

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Q1. What is the reason Colossians gives for reading the Bible daily ? (Col. 3:16)

Q2. How do these passages describe the attitude with which we are to sing to God? (Eph 5:18, 20- 21, Col 3:16-17)

Q3. Why do we sing together with other Christians (as opposed to singing to God alone)?

Q4. What does singing do for us as a people?

Let's Read

- *Hebrew 10:24-25*

"24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrew 10:24-25)

Q5. Why is it important for God's people to gather weekly?

Q6. What is the blessing we receive from gathering to worship? (vertical dimension (between God & us) and horizontal dimension (between myself and others))

Q7. Knowing that worshipping together should be edifying to the body, how does this affect the way we prepare to gather on Sundays?

Q8. What should we practically do to prepare for worship together each week?