

Lesson 17 Elements of a Worship Service



Scripture Text

- Psalm 117 “Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord.”



Key Terms

- Commitment
- Invitation
- Intercession
- Assurance
- Praise
- Benediction



Lecture Objectives

- To identify and describe elements of biblical worship, noting their scriptural precedent
- To examine the elements of our personal worship in light of scriptural precedent



To Think About Before You Go On

- Consider a recent public worship service you participated in. What are some specific things that were done as a part of that worship? (E.g. Prayer? What kind of prayer? Singing? What kind of singing? Praise? What kind of praise? Clapping, lifting of holy hands?)

Recap: As he discusses the various elements of a worship service, Professor Barrs urges us to use creativity to bring the service alive for the congregation. In the last lesson he covered the Welcome, Call to Worship, Invocation, Response of Praise and Adoration, Confession, Forgiveness, Rejoicing, Preparation. (*Please note that the shaded box below indicates an area of overlap with the previous lesson.*)

*Memory Work: Psalm 81:1-2
Psalm 117*

III. Biblical Philosophy of Worship

(The Biblical Philosophy of Worship was started in Lesson 3)

- A. Definition**
- B. Principles which govern worship**
- C. Structuring a Worship Service**

D. The Elements of Worship Offered to the Triune God

10. Commitment reminds us of our need.

- Whenever we make any promises to God, or any statements of commitment, we see our need of God's work in our lives. We call out to Him, "Lord, help us!"

11. God's Invitation

- The Father invites His children to bring their needs to Him.
- Matt. 11:28
Matt. 7:7-11
- This invitation to prayer could come after the rejoicing in the forgiveness through Christ.

12. Intercession

- We exercise our priesthood for each other and for the world. This may be the immediate response to the Word.

I Tim. 2:1-2

- We should include both joys and sorrows, thanksgiving and needs.
- Intercession should be tied into pastoral prayer, but also congregational prayers, addressing the life of the congregation in the world.
- Find those who have a gift of prayer and encouraging them to use this gift in public worship.

13. God's Assurance of His Care

- God has heard and will answer the prayers of His children.
- This could be a single sentence or a hymn or reading of encouragement.

14. Our Praise

- We praise God again for His goodness and care.
- Hymns, testimonies or offerings of thanksgiving would be appropriate.
- Benedictions addressed to the Lord fit well here.
- Eph. 1:3

15. Benedictions

- God sends us out into the world with His blessing.

16. This outline is flexible.

- a) Many points can be telescoped into a single sentence, expanded, left out or moved around.
- b) What is essential is the dialog - the grace/gratitude, God's worth/our confession, His call/our response, our needs/His provision, His Word/our reaction - the "to and fro" movement that all true worship involves.
- c) Almost any part can be filled with readings, hymns, prayers, congregational words, choir or solo music, responsive expressions, etc.

17. Announcements

- a) Some may be included in the prayer times, if they express the needs and thanksgivings of the congregation.
- b) Some may be included in the welcome, if they are other opportunities for worship, learning and service.
- c) Some may be included before the benediction, tying our life as we go out to worship God (at home, at work, and in the world) to the worship we have just offered to the Lord.
- d) DON'T turn the welcome or any other part of a worship service into a long list of everything the church is doing. These can(and should) be written in the bulletin, or news letter) and people can be encouraged to read them - after the service.

***Every word the leader says must aid people
in their worship of the Lord.***



Go back and rethink the 'To think about before you go on' questions on the first page of this lecture