

# Real Worship

*Setting Aside Preference and Submitting to the Bible*

## **Why is Our Worship So Word-Oriented? part 1**

*Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, May 6, 2012 / Grace Fellowship Church*

Both worship and word were meant to exalt the glory of Christ and to stir our total being of heart, soul, mind and strength.

**John 4:23–24** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

### **I. It's Only God's Word that Can Lead You to Faith & Keep Feeding Your Faith for a Life-Time**

The Word of God is central in our worship!

**Romans 10:14–15, 17** “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’... <sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

**1 Peter 1:23–25** “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, <sup>24</sup> because ‘All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the LORD endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

The most important things that need to be communicated could not be communicated without words!

### **II. It's God's Word that will Keep You Focused on What the Church has Always been Focused On instead of Cycling through all of the Latest Cultural Fads**

There are a lot of things we don't know about the worship of the early church in the Bible, but we do know that they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

**Acts 2:42** “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**1 Timothy 4:13–16** “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. <sup>15</sup> Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

Paul warned Timothy not to back off emphasizing sound doctrine:

**2 Timothy 4:1–4** “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

When we build our worship services around the Word of God, we're in line with what the church has been doing from its inception.

### III. It's God's Word that will Keep You from Chasing After All the Wrong Things – and Missing What Your Heart's Really Longing For

One of the saddest and most disappointing ways you could live your life is looking for some kind of ecstatic spiritual experience to be perpetually and eternally infatuated with God.

Our worship is supposed to be geared towards maximum intelligibility with words being paramount... not feelings.

**1 Corinthians 14:1–4, 8–9** “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. <sup>3</sup> But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. <sup>4</sup> He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church... <sup>8</sup> For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? <sup>9</sup> So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.”

“Every poet and musician and artist, but for Grace is drawn away from love of the thing he tells, to love of the telling.... Art has the ability to draw our affection to itself. It is possible to love our artistic expressions more than we love God Himself.” –C.S. Lewis

We need God's word to interpret for us what we're feeling and to guide us into truth.

### IV. It's God's Word that will Lead You to Your Savior Because Your Savior Embodies the Word

**Jesus Christ is the preexistent, incarnate, eternal, Word of God.** That's who we're worshipping! That's who we're supposed to be following and falling in love with. The Bible is not Jesus Christ, but you don't want to miss the connection between the Bible and Christ.

**John 1:1–4** “ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**John 5:39** “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”

The Scriptures he had in mind were the Old Testament. So the religious people in Christ's day were committed to the Bible, but they missed the point. If you miss Jesus Christ you miss the point.

**Luke 24:26–27, 32** “‘Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?’ <sup>27</sup> And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself... <sup>32</sup> And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’”

Our worship services are word-focused because we want them to be Christ-focused.