

Studies in Christianity Christian Worship #5b

S#1.

Beyond the Five Acts – Part 2

S#2.

Text : **Psa. 22: 25-31 ; Heb. 10: 19-31**

A. Last week we started off out of sequence, but soon got down to business.

1. We discussed using various types of calls to worship. S#3.

- a. The old church bells which gave way to electronic buzzers,
- b. Short songs repetitiously sung from memory.
- c. Short bible verses about worship recited from memory.

2. American congregations do singing differently than some. S#4.

- a. We put a song leader in charge of the song selection and singing.
- b. Some set in a circle and sing TO each other.
- c. Others sing responsively to a leader rather than using books.
- d. The purpose of singing in the assembly is NOT entertainment.

1) **Col. 3: 16** – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom S#5.
teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2) **Eph. 5: 19** – be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms S#6.
and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody
with your heart to the Lord:

***e.** When Greek style music was introduced into the church, it was most divisive.

3. Preaching can be done in many ways. S#7.

- a. There are many styles of preaching and types of sermons.
 - 1) Textual exposition verses topical sermons
 - 2) Book sermons and section sermons
 - 3) Historical sermons and biographical character studies
- b. Sermons are presented in a variety of lengths depending on culture.
 - 1) American sermon are shorter because Americans are impatient people.
 - 2) African sermons are 1 hr. 45 min. to 2 hrs.
 - 3) Eastern European sermons tend to be 3 hours ... hunger for spiritual food.
- c. Some sermons are interactive to varying degrees.
 - 1) Some offer words of encouragement during the sermon. (*amen, preach on, tell it lik*)
 - 2) Some ask questions during the sermon. (*“How can one do that ?” Why ...?*)
 - 3) Some take notes and discuss the lesson afterward.

4. Giving is often disrespected as an act of worship. **S#8.**

- a. In this country it is almost universally attached to the communion service.
- b. It is very often just introduced as our paying our share of the bills.
- c. A future lesson will show it to be much more than doing a duty.

5. The purpose for our assembly is clearly stated as “to eat the Lord's Supper.” **S#9.**

a. **I Cor. 11: 20** – Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

b. Other activities in the assembly are ancillary to the communion service. **S#10.**

Acts 20: 7 – On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread. Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

B. This lesson will discuss some other things we do when we are assembled. **S#11.**

- 1. We pray .. giving thanks and praising.
- 2. We read the scriptures publically.
- 3. We make announcements, honor one another.
- 4. We fellowship , encourage , edify each other.
- 5. We conduct ourselves orderly emphasizing love.

S#12.

I. In or out of the assembly prayer has always been characteristic of God's people.

A. When the very first Christians got together they prayed.

1. **Acts 2: 42** – They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **S#13.**

2. **Acts 12: 5** – So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

* 3. **Luke 18: 1-8** ... Brings out the principle that God expects we will keep on asking.

Luke 18: 6 – And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; **7** now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? **S#14.**

B. God invites His children to express their NEEDS to Him.

1. **Phil. 4: 6** – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

2. **Notice** ... Requests must be accompanied by gratitude.

C. Prayers in the assembly consist primarily of thanksgiving and praise.

Heb. 13: 15 – Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. **S#15.**

D. Christianity is described as a walk that is devoted to prayer.

Rom 12:12 – rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.

II. We read the scriptures in the assembly.**S#16.****A. The public reading of scriptures was commanded.****S#17.**

1. **I Tim. 4: 13** – Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.
2. Here, the word “**scripture**” refers to the Old Testament. (*N.T. not yet written, etc.*)
3. Why only “until I come?” Paul was an inspired Apostle so when he spoke it was “ex cathedra” and he would take over the teaching when he arrived.

B. We have the inspired word of God why continue having public readings.

1. In this assembly everyone can read, but that is not universally true.
2. The SAD thing is that many who can read don't, especially the Old Testament.

C. This applies to more than a verse or two as a lesson text.**III. We make announcements and we also honor each other.****S#18.****A. Some see announcements as unessential and too time consuming.**

1. There are some **bad attitudes** toward announcements.
 - a. “*Most of the time the announcer just reads the bulletin, so let's read it at home.*”
 - b. “*Some of the announcers show boat and stretch the announcements out.*”
2. Such attitudes tend to be prevalent in those who don't particularly want to be there.

B. Announcements should be an interactive time when the members share. S#19.

1. If you don't care about the lives of the brethren you need to repent.
2. There needs to be a time when we :

Rom. 12: 14 – Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
3. Remember the song we sing (705) “*A common love for each other.*”
 - a. Building that common love requires sharing our lives.
 - b. There must be a time when we are together when we can do this sharing.

C. The scriptures instruct us to honor one another.

1. **Rom. 12: 10** – Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
2. The announcements are an appropriate time to honor a brother or sister.

S#20.

IV. Our commonness generates positive interaction which will encourage and edify.

A. Part of the specified reasons for the assembly was to encourage one another.

1. **Heb. 10: 23** – Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, **S#21.**
for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to
stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking
our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging
one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
2. **I Cor. 14: 26** – What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, **S#22.**
each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a
tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

B. How will the ones who need encouraging be identified. **S#23.**

1. For sure, those who are missing from the assembly need to be encouraged.
 - a. These cannot be encouraged IN the assembly.
 - b. They require individual attention. (*Email, text, phone, cards, visits*)
 - * c. You miss a credit card payment and they'll find a way to contact you.
2. When a Christian has no joy, he needs encouragement.
3. When one is facing difficult struggles, he needs encouragement.

C. How do we go about encouraging those who we learn need built up?

1. Do we have them turn around and sing a song to the back of their head ?
 - a. That sounds so absurd when we say it out loud, **but** that's what we practice.
 - b. Just setting in a pew and sing, is not interacting to provide positive reinforcement.
2. Loving words from the announcer are great, **BUT** it's much better if loving words
rain down from each person in the assembly.

D. Looking just at yourself ???

1. What do you do each assembly to be an encouragement to someone else ?
2. How do you communicate to others that you are down and need a pep talk ?

E. As a congregation, how do we go about motivating the members to be more loving and to do more good works to God's glory ?

1. **Hebrews 10** commands this in reference to the assembly of the saints.
2. Which part of the assembly motivates people to do more good deeds?
3. How do the various "acts of worship" edify you ?
- * 4. *There must be more interaction and less rigidly scheduled activities.*

IV. We conduct ourselves orderly and respectfully emphasizing love.**S#24.****A. What does it mean to do everything properly and orderly ?****S#25.**

1. **I Cor. 14: 40** – But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.
2. The context of this text is obviously chapters 11-14 of this book.
3. The disorderliness was in regard to members using the assembly for self-promotion.
 - a. **I Cor. 11: 1-16** ... Improperly presenting one's self before God.
 - b. **I Cor. 11: 17-34** ... Improperly eating the Lord's supper.
 - c. **I Cor. 12: 1-31** ... Improper attitude toward spiritual gifts
 - d. **I Cor. 13: 1-13** ... Teaching on proper attitude toward Spiritual gifts.
 - e. **I Cor. 14: 1-19** ... Instruction as to proper use of spiritual gifts in the assembly.
 - f. **I Cor. 14: 20-40** ... Admonition to proper conduct in the assembly.

B. The assemblies are governed by doctrine, but “orderly conduct” can be cultural.

1. We previously discussed the difference between the assemblies of black and white brethren. This is an example of cultural differences, not doctrinal differences.
2. God has allowed us wide latitude in the way we conduct an assembly.

C. There are limitations God places upon our assemblies.

1. We must have at least one assembly on Sunday TO eat the Lord's Supper.
2. Everything in the assembly must be done to edify. (*Put thought into it*)
3. The assembly must consider its impact on visitors.

I Cor. 14: 23 – Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all **S#26.**
 speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not
 say that you are mad? **24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an
ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by
 all; **25** the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his
 face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

- a. This is NOT to say that the assembly should be designed to please visitors.
- b. It means that the assembly should not be unnecessarily repulsive to visitors.
- c. Some visitors will find our assemblies distasteful. (*from tactile or emotional religions*)

CONCLUSION :**S#27.**

- A. We've seen that in the assembly, worship is about honoring God for who He is.
- B. However, God designed the assembly to have a horizontal aspect to it.
- C. Like the Sabbath, the assembly was given by God as a benefit, not as a burden.

Lesson Text :**Psalms 22: 25**

25 From You comes my praise in the great assembly;
I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.

26 The afflicted will eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek Him will praise the Lord.
Let your heart live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord,
And all the families of the nations will worship before You.

28 For the kingdom is the Lord's
And He rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship,
All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep his soul alive.

30 Posterity will serve Him;
It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.

31 They will come and will declare His righteousness
To a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

Hebrews 10: 19-31

19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. **28** Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." and again, "The Lord will judge his people." **31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.