

Take Away – Open House: Open the Door of Worship

Text: 2 Corinthians 8

Date: 9-27-20



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by today's sermon.

1. Worship is _____ (Fill in the blank with one word or complete the sentence and then explain to your group why you entered what you did.)
2. React to: "The traditional view defines worship this way...you see people sitting passively in a sanctuary. They are there for one hour a week. They are listening to the Word. They are convicted, comforted, and challenged by God's Word. They are receiving the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith. God works through His Word *and* we passively receive. That is a traditional view of worship. Notice that I did not say, 'a wrong view of worship.' The narrow view of worship is not wrong. It's right and necessary. But it is incomplete."
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 6. The Macedonian Christians was facing a "severe test of affliction." They experienced "extreme poverty" and were subjected to persecution for following Jesus. Despite all of this, share adjectives and examples of how the Macedonian Christians respond to Paul's call to give generously to those in need in Jerusalem.
4. React to: "Most Americans go into debt because they want more stuff. The Macedonian Christians went into debt because they wanted to give stuff away."
5. What does it mean that "When you give yourself first to the Lord everything that follows is worship."?
6. Pastor asked us to imagine peeking through the window of the room "Worship" and notice a man mopping the floor off to the side while others are taking communion, singing praises, praying, and listening to the Word. Upon asking the man, "Hey, what are you doing here? This is a place of worship." He responds: "I know, that's why I am here." What point was pastor trying to make about worship with this example?
7. React to: "Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship. God enjoys watching every detail of your life, whether you are working, playing, resting, or eating." Rick Warren
8. React to: "Worship is not a **part** of your life; it **is** your life." Rick Warren

9. Let's read two of the most "Lutheran" verses in the Bible: Ephesians 2: 8 – 9. Now reread these two verses but include the following verse - Ephesians 2: 10. How does adding verse 10 powerfully put worship in its rightful place in our Christian faith life and walk?
10. How does this quote: "Someone somewhere is depending on you to do something that God called only you to do." support the Biblical principles in Ephesians 2:10?
11. Read Romans 12:1. How does one "present your body as living sacrifice?"
12. React to "The problem comes with "living" sacrifices is they like to crawl off the altar! Our sinful nature doesn't like to die to ourselves and reveal God's grace as worship. We would rather worship ourselves and live for our desires."
13. React to: "Every human activity, except sin, can be done for God's pleasure if you do it with an attitude of praise." Rick Warren

With your kids...

14. What does it mean to you to "worship" Jesus?
15. Singing can be a great way to worship Jesus but so can working, playing, resting, and eating. How can each of these be ways to worship Jesus?
- 16.

On your own...

17. What does it mean that "When you give yourself first to the Lord everything that follows is worship."?
18. Meditate on each of the following quotes by Rick Warren in *The Purpose Driven Life*:
 - a. "Like a proud parent, God especially enjoys watching you use the talents and abilities He has given you."
 - b. "God gains pleasure in watching you *enjoy* His creation."
 - c. "When you are sleeping, God gazes at you with love, because you were His idea."
 - d. "The heart of worship is surrender."
 - e. "Heartless praise is not praise at all! It is worthless, an insult to God."
19. Read each of the following verses about worship: John 4:24, Psalm 95:6, Romans 12:1, Isaiah 12:5, Luke 4:8, and Psalm 95: 1 – 6.
20. Can you help us launch 100 new small groups in October? Please go to <https://christgreenfield.church/smallgroups> to learn more about small groups and/or to sign up to become a small group HOST!