

WHAT IN THE WORLD NEVER STOPS? (Psalm 95)

Psalm 95 tells us...

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| <p>1) <i>Come! Let us sing out in joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.</i></p> | <p>Response—call to worship</p> |
| <p>2) <i>Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and
let us extol Him with music and song.</i></p> | |
| <p>3) <i>For the Lord is the greatest God,
and the greatest king above all gods,</i></p> | <p>Revelation—cause for worship</p> |
| <p>4) <i>In His hand are the depths of the earth,
and the peaks of the mountains belong to Him.</i></p> | |
| <p>5) <i>The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.</i></p> | |
| <p>6) <i>Come! Let us worship and
let us bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker</i></p> | <p>Response—call to worship</p> |
| <p>7) <i>For He is our God
and we are the people He shepherds and the flock under His care.</i></p> | <p>Revelation—cause for worship</p> |
| <p><i>Today, if you hear His voice,</i></p> | <p>Response—continuing worship</p> |
| <p>8) <i>“do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,¹
as you did that day at Massah² in the desert,</i></p> | <p>Revelation—cause is a history lesson</p> |
| <p>9) <i>where your fathers tested and tried Me,
even though they had seen My work.</i></p> | |
| <p>10) <i>For forty years I loathed that generation. I said,
‘They are a people whose hearts wander and
they have not known My ways.’</i></p> | |
| <p>11) <i>Therefore, I swore an oath in My anger, ‘They shall never enter My rest.’”</i></p> | |

¹ *Meribah* is the name of the place where the people squabbled with Moses about having nothing to drink in Exodus 17. It means “strive, contend, quarrel”

² *Massah* is the name of the place where a similar event occurred almost 40 years later in Numbers 20. It means “test, try”

WORSHIP IS...

1. The expected human response to divine revelation

Revelation

3) *For...*

7) *For...*

Today, if you hear his voice...

Response

1-2) *sing out in joy...shout aloud...come before*

him with thanksgiving...extol him with song

6) *worship...bow down...kneel*

8) *do not harden your hearts...*

All authentic...theology has its beginning in a sense of wonder. Existence is vastly beautiful, wonderfully good, majestically true. We can only get off on the right foot by beginning in adoration. All authentic anything has its beginning in a sense of wonder.... If we do not begin in adoration, we begin too small. If we begin by formulating a problem, by identifying a need, by tackling a necessary job, by launching a program, we reduce the reality that is before us to what we can do or get others to do. (Eugene Peterson, *Subversive Spirituality*)

2. Our calling and lifestyle

1) *Come! Let us...*

6) *Come! Let us...*

8) *Today, if you hear his voice...*

What day should *that* happen?

3. Expressed in many ways

1-2) *sing out in joy, shout aloud, come before him with thanksgiving, extol him with song* = Exuberantly

6) *worship, bow down, kneel* = Reverently

8-11) *Today, if you hear his voice do not harden your hearts* = Obediently

Both for perplexity and for dulled conscience the remedy is the same; sincere and spiritual worship. For worship is the *submission* of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of the will to His purpose—and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin. Yes—worship in spirit and truth is the way to the solution of perplexity and to the liberation from sin. (William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1942-44).

4. Physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual

1) *Come! Let us sing out in joy to the Lord;*

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2) *Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and*

let us extol Him with music and song.

8) *do not harden your hearts...*

Where feelings for God are dead, worship is dead.... True worship always combines heart and head, emotion and thought, affection and reflection, doxology and theology. (John Piper, *Desiring God*) Most of the reality with which we deal is invisible. Most of what makes up human existence is inaccessible to our five senses: emotions, thoughts, dreams, love, hope, character, purpose, belief. Even what makes up most of basic physical existence is out of the range of our unassisted senses: molecules and atoms, neutrons and protons, the air we breathe, the ancestors we derive from, the angels who protect us. We live *immersed in these immense invisibles*. And more than anything else, we are dealing with God “whom no one has seen at any time.” Worship is the primary and most accessible means we are given for orienting ourselves in the invisibilities, in God. (Eugene Peterson, *Subversive Spirituality*)

The imagination is among the chief glories of the human. When it is healthy and energetic, it ushers us into adoration and wonder, into the mysteries of God. When it is neurotic and sluggish, it turns people, millions of them, into parasites, copycats, and couch potatoes. The American imagination today is distressingly sluggish.... Right now, one of the essential Christian ministries in and to our ruined world is the recovery and exercise of the imagination. (Eugene Peterson, *Subversive Spirituality*)

5. For participants, not spectators

- 1) *Come! Let us...let us...*
- 2) *Let us...let us...*
- 8) *do not harden your hearts...*

Worship isn't something you watch and evaluate; it is something you perform

Americans have developed a *spectator mentality*.... Is it any wonder that when they attend a church service, they carry their spectator attitude with them? They have learned to be enthusiastic for that which is highly entertaining and that which gives them an emotional thrill. (Robert G. Rayburn, *O Come, Let Us Worship*)

6. The most energizing, exhilarating experience you can have

What is more exciting than what is described in Psalm 95?!

Worship is dangerous. It is not a retreat from reality, but a *direct engagement* with ultimate reality: God. Genuine worship is a response to God and what he has done; in it we make ourselves vulnerable to the story of Israel and Jesus. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. (Annie Dillard, *People of the Truth*)

APP: as you approach a single, one-hour service on Sunday morning, remember...

- Worship is a 24/7 experience for which *you* are responsible**
- Your Sunday service experience will be enhanced by your M-T-W-T-F-S worship**