

## The Benefits of Worship

Scripture: Psalm 19:7 – 14 & Psalm 62

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

About two months ago, I was looking through the box from when I was going to Lexington Theological Seminary in the License Lay Ministry School. I was surprised to find a folder marked 'Worship 101'. Yes, one of my folders from that summer at LTS was marked 'Worship 101'!

In the folder were my notes and on one page there were my notes from one day in the class when we discussed the benefits of worship. The scriptural text for this lesson were two Psalms – Psalm 19:7 – 14 and Psalm 62, both written by David.

Let me share these notes with you – the Benefits of Worship – Let's get started.

It has been said that man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. So how do we glorify God – that is by worship!

For many people, the first thing that comes to mind when we hear the word 'worship' is music and singing, but the worship of God involves so much more than that. Worship has seven parts to it. Here are the seven benefits of worship.

#1 – Forgiveness – True worshippers recognize God’s holiness and accept his forgiveness. It is through worship that we are purified. If worship is not done, forgiveness is not happening.

#2 – Guidance – Those who honor God will be given wisdom and will receive God’s guidance day to day. In worship we receive wisdom from above and God will guide us each and every day.

#3 – Provision – Jesus said that God will meet our material needs if we give him first place in our lives. Not second place or last place, but first place in our lives.

#4 – Love – The love of God is experienced in the hearts of all those who are true worshippers. Without worship, the love of God can be missing.

#5 – Power – To all who give God the glory, God gives them the enabling power to do things God requires of them. It is through worship that we receive a power from God.

#6 – Protection – God faithfully watches over all who acknowledge him and God keeps them in all of life’s changing circumstances. Through worship we receive God’s protection.

#7 – Glory – All true worshipers will one day be glorified. They will inherit a new heaven and a new earth, and they will join with a company of believers and angels in perfect, uninterrupted worship.

A story – a large cast iron ring stood strong against the harsh Minnesota winters. The ring hung on the door frame of a farmhouse. More than 200 feet away was another cast iron ring which was fixed firmly to the dairy barn on the farm. When a blizzard would come, which happened often in Minnesota, the farmer would attach a line between the farmhouse and barn. The farmer could then hold firmly to the rope to keep him from losing his way in the blinding snow!

Worship is for us, that line from the earth to heaven. If we hold firmly to that line, we will never lose our way no matter how life's troubles blind us.

In Psalm 19, David used lines of Hebrew poetry to trace how God's wisdom guides us through life and guards us against sin and error. David said – 'The decrees of the Lord are firm and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, they are sweeter than honey from the honeycomb. By them, your servant is warned. In keeping them, there is a great reward.'

In many ways David is speaking to us about worship. Worship is the line that we must hang on to survive harsh storms that come our way.

Let us keep a firm grip on the benefits of worship and the truths of scripture informed by the Holy Spirit and working in our hearts. Keep us from losing our way home.

The price of the love of our Savior is priceless. The direction God sends our way will leads us to honor and glorify God. We are warned against wandering from God. May his path for each us be a clear path. Let us use Christ priceless love and may each of us become a blessing that awaits all who place their faith in God.

Worship is our lifeline! May God help us to cling to the benefits worship.

God's will is sometimes hard to follow. God asks us to do the right things. He calls us to endure hardships without complaining. He calls us to love awkward people without flinching. He calls us to heed the voice inside us so that his love and compassion may shine through us.

So, we must tell our souls all day long – 'Listen up and be silent and do what Jesus is asking us to do!'

In Psalm 62 we find the verse – 'My soul waits in silence for God alone.' Our souls wait in silence for God alone. David is saying something about his soul and he calls out to our souls – 'Wait in silence!' This gives us direction and should settle our minds.

Worship allows us to wait in silence. Worship gives us the time to wait in silence.

David wanted to live in silence and to quietly submit to God's will. This is our calling also. This is one of the reasons we were created. We will be at peace when we agree with David – wait in silence.

We need God's help for our hope comes from him. When we ask for his help, God delivers it! When we ask for Christ's help, Jesus delivers it.

In worship we receive this help. Let us wait in silence for our hope is coming! God never asks us to do anything he would not have us to do. God never asks us to do something that we cannot do.

Oh yes, the seven benefits of worship are: Forgiveness, Guidance, Provision, Love, Power, Protection, and Glory. We may not always understand God's will for us, but ask for help to submit to the benefits of worship.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, help us to treasure your teachings today. Thank you for the richness of worship and thank you for the blessings of scripture.

Teach us to trust in your good and faithful character. Give us a submissive heart and may we follow the example of Jesus and may our worship always benefit us and you.                    AMEN.