

Examining our Mission: Helping People to Worship

1 Timothy 2:1-15

1 Timothy 3:14-15

1 Timothy 2:1-15

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:1-15, cont.

⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.⁸ Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. ⁹ I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

1 Timothy 2:1-15, cont.

¹¹ A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

**An essential task of the church is to help people to worship:
Worship (acknowledging the “worth” of God) is the result of an encounter with the Lord Jesus and His truth that is initiated by God and that results in transformed lives.**

The Call to Worship

- God invites us to worship Him
- Worship means to personally grasp the value of having a Savior like Jesus
- God calls us to know Him personally
- God's presence sustains us in worship
- Worship is also a lifestyle choice
- Worship results in transformation of our priorities and our behavior

A Hymn of God-Centered Worship

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride...
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Written by Isaac Watts

Misguided Worship

- When the primary focus is on anything other than God, our worship is misguided
- Worship as an emotional experience
– *I love the way it makes me feel*
- Worship as a community experience
– *I love being with other believers*
- Worship as a performance opportunity – *I like to perform in front of others*



What should worship be?

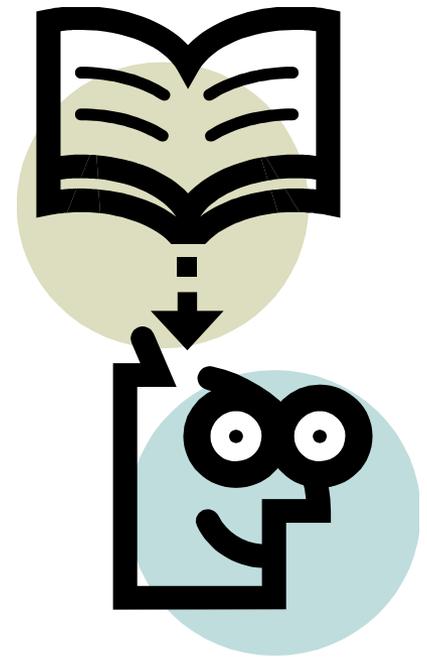
- A Divine Endeavor
- A Divine Encounter
- A Divine Encouragement
- 1 Tim. 3:14-15: "Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

1. Worship Is a Divine Endeavor

- The desire of God for people to know the truth is the driving force behind worship
- 1 Tim. 2:3: "This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth..."
- Psalm 51:6: "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place."
- John 4:23-24: "...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth..."

Three primary ways we learn

- Formal knowledge – a systematic series of subjects built one upon the other
- Examples – learning to follow another person's example
- Need-based – we really only learn well what we need to learn. Tasks. Crises.



Goals of Learning in Worship

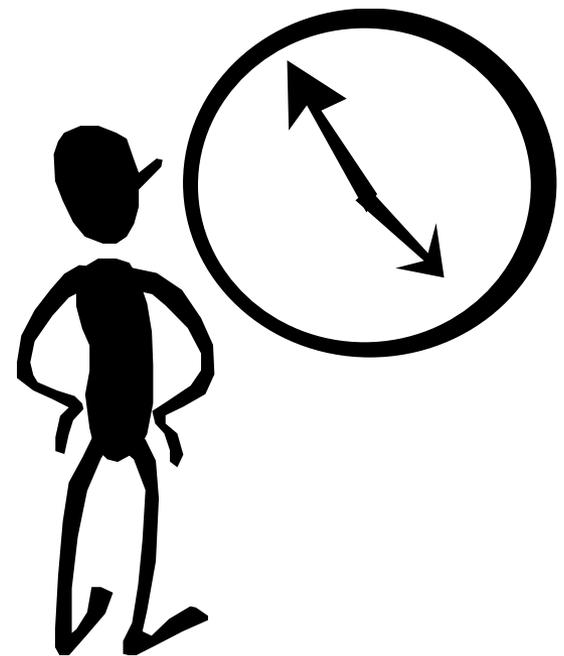
- To learn, understand, and apply the Bible
- To see good examples of Christian behavior
- To place the Bible along side of life
- To place our current life challenges alongside of the Bible
- To acknowledge our common calling and challenges as fellow Christians
- **We can only accomplish these as we are enabled by the Holy Spirit!**

2. Worship Is a Divine Encounter

- The love of God expressed in Christ Jesus is the focus of our attention in worship.
- 1 Tim. 2:5: “For there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time.”
- 1 Peter 1:8: “though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him...”

The Testimony in the Proper Time

- Christ gave a visible witness to the plan of God for all men to be saved through His death on Calvary
- “In the proper time” means that Christ came at the time God planned for Him to come.
- The witness of God’s love for us enters our lives according to the timing of God.



A Blind Man at the Pool, John 9

- “Why? ...so that the works of God might be displayed in him,” John 9:3
- “Whether He is a sinner or not, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see,” John 9:25
- Jesus came at the right time, to the right person, for the right reason, in the right way.
- Jesus is seeking a relationship with you right now



3. Worship Results in Divine Encouragement

- 1 Tim. 2:8-9: “Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. Likewise, women to adorn themselves ... by means of good works as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.”
- Holy lives transformed under the Lordship of Christ making a difference in the world is the result of worship
- Results: intercession, inner peace, holy hands, growth in Christ, healthier relations with others

Transformation Issues at Ephesus

- The ways the people used prayer, 2:1-2: the absence of humility and civil concern
- The ways men used their hands, 2:8: the problems of anger and division
- The ways women sought significance, 2:9-15: the problems of immodesty and control
- The qualifications of spiritual leaders, 3:1-13
- Character issues were of the utmost importance

When True Worship Happens

- God's truth has been proclaimed
- Christ has called us to Himself
- We are encouraged to obedient lifestyles

