

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

January 26, 2014

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

---

---

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is Compassionate

Deuteronomy 4:30-31: "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice. For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 86:8-10

+We Adore Him

Hymn #17, "Praise The Lord"

*Based on Psalm 145*

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty God, you have called us to be your church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to this lost and needy world. Yet we acknowledge that we are often more apathetic than active, more isolated than involved, more callous than compassionate, more obstinate than obedient, more legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove those obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to this broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. Make us vessels of your grace and healing. Use us to bring life to our neighbors, our city, and our world. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #535, "O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Ps. 86:6-7

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #573, "Am I A Soldier Of The Cross"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Ps. 86:11

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #598, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

**Divine Marching Orders for those Passing  
through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, Pt. 1**  
Zephaniah 2:1-3

January 26, 2014

**I. Introduction**

The church has and will continue to suffer alongside the wicked in this world! Genuine servants of the Lord, who had not bowed the knee to Baal, suffered along with God's people at this time! God did not *rapture* them out of the trial. Yet they were not abandoned by the Lord!

Zeph. 2:1

Without Shame

Gather

Seek

**II. Divine Marching Orders for those Passing through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, Zeph. 2:1-3.**

**A. The Call (Zeph. 2:3a): Passionately and fervently to seek...**

**1. A Person**

To seek the Lord is to seek His Person and so to love Him, know Him, commune with Him, and so fellowship with Him in and through all things.

...in trial we must see that our highest calling is to seek the Lord! For, in the words of Jeremiah, "...you will find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13)!

In explanation as to what this specifically means in Scripture, we go to Scripture. When we do that we note that to "seek the Lord" in the Bible denotes at least five things: To Seek the Lord is...

**a. To Seek to Know His Forgiveness, Is. 55:6-7; Acts 15:14-19.**

To seek the Lord is to forsake all human coping mechanisms. It is to live on this earth knowing the satisfaction that though the world has forsaken you, the Lord has not! He is your only comfort, support, and friend! So be content so long as you have Him as your Lord, Savior, and Companion!

**b. To Seek to Rely Upon Him, 2 Chron. 16:12; Is. 31:1.**

Clearly another facet of "seeking the Lord" is relying/depending upon the Lord in and through all things...

Such is the calling that is given to all God's children living in this state of sin and misery. Indeed we are to work, labor, and toil... but it is all to be done in reliance upon Christ. In this context, recognize an important diagnostic tool...

**c. To Seek to Pray, Dan. 9:3.**

It should be clear from this text that "seeking the Lord" is synonymous with "prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes"- all of which denote a humble reliance upon God via prayer!

You say, "Isn't this the same as the last point, 'Relying upon God?'" Yes and no! Prayer does speak of a God-ward look of dependence and devotion- the focus of Point 2. However, the emphasis here is on actually praying to God!

**d. To Seek to Live Vicariously through His Person, 1 Chron. 16:7a-11.**

This passage equates "glorying in God's holy character," "making known God's deeds among the peoples," and "speaking of all His wonders" WITH "seeking Him."

Our Capacity to Live Vicariously through Another

**e. To Seek to Worship Him on His Terms, Deut. 12:5; Ps. 22:26.**

A fifth and final synonym when it comes to seeking the Lord is worshipping Him- NOT as the Canaanites did, BUT according to His word! That is the contrast!

A Key Component to Canaanite Religion

In reference to this religion, Moses said, "You shall not act like this toward the Lord your God" (Deut. 12:4)!

**Mending Sails:** Samuel Rutherford said, "Look for crosses, and while it is fair weather mend the sails of the ship." (*Letters of Samuel Rutherford*, Letter XXX, p. 92)