
Sermon Notes

March 3, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Submitting to God in Worship Colossians 3:16

"In Truth"

- ❖ We have previously looked at what it means to worship God "in spirit", what does it mean to worship God "in truth"?
 - true worshipers must believe and accept what God says about
 - Himself
 - His Son
 - sin
 - me
 - His promises
 - those 5 areas of truth about what God says = the gospel
- ❖ Historically, Christian worship has been a way for God's people to remember and reenact the gospel each week
- ❖ Worship that causes worshipers to submit to God "in spirit and truth" is always about the gospel
 - the gospel is an endless source of encouragement, strength, comfort, and motivation for our sin weary souls
 - the gospel is why we gather!

A "How To" Lesson

- ❖ God gives us a "how to" lesson on worshipping Him "in truth" in Colossians 3:16-17
 - let the living Word of God pulse inside every fiber of your being
 - let the living Word live in you richly... in a very wealthy way
- ❖ When God's people come together in worship, the Word of God is always paramount
 - Israel at Sinai
 - great moments of revival and restoration under leaders like Josiah and Nehemiah
 - the preaching of God's Word in the book of *Acts*
- ❖ Bob Kauflin: "God chooses certain times and places to reveal His presence in pronounced and unique ways. One of those times is when the church gathers."
 - at such times, God addresses us as His people
 - the Spirit works in our hearts to convict, comfort, illumine, and exhort us
- ❖ Singing God's Word together
 - while music can and does speak to our emotions, God also intends our singing to be an "educational" and edifying event
 - slowing our speech down so that it becomes "sung speech" causes us to reflect more on the meaning of the words we are expressing

The Sound of Music

- ❖ Singing together is a means through which the Word dwells in us richly
- ❖ The critical question is not whether you have a voice but rather, "Do you have a song?"
 - we are all called to sing whether we think we have a voice or not, whether we like music or not, whether we like the song selections or not, whether we're "down" or not
 - Paul and Silas sang in jail after being beaten!
- ❖ The people of God are a singing people
- ❖ God's people sing for many reasons
 - God tells us to sing (Psalm 47:6)
 - God Himself sings! (Zephaniah 3:17)
 - singing is inseparably tied to being filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19)
- ❖ Three different categories of song
 - **psalms**
 - the psalms of the OT are filled with every emotion, mood, situation and circumstance any of us can or will ever face
 - primarily (not exclusively!) songs of praise sung to God

■ hymns

- songs that give us an opportunity to express truths about God and which help us remember and hold onto those truths
- songs we sing to each other about God and our faith in God

■ spiritual songs

- songs of personal experience, songs of testimony
 - "this is what God did for me and I want to give Him all the praise, honor, and glory for it!"
- ❖ A well-balanced diet of music in worship will attempt to weave all three of these forms together

Personal Application

1. Does the Word of God dwell in you richly? How do you know whether or not this is true about you?
2. One way in which the Word of God dwells in us richly is through song. How does God use music to help you experience and express His truth? Are there ways in which you need to open yourself up to growing in this area? What will you do about that?
3. Worshiping God "in truth" involves "teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs". How aware are you of God using you week by week to accomplish this in worship? What would help you become more aware of the "US" in worship and less aware of "ME" and what I want and what I like?.