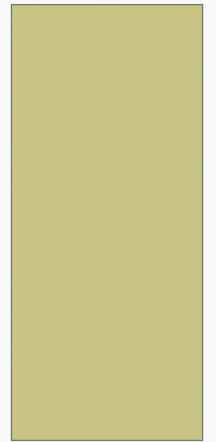


# DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

JUNE - AUGUST 2014



# OVERVIEW OF CLASS

13 LESSONS

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 1 What is the church?
- 2 Christ the King and Head of the church
- 3 The members of the church
- 4 The attributes of the church
- 5 The marks of the church

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 6 The worship of the church
- 7 Baptism
- 8 The Lord's Supper
- 9 The nurture of the church
- 10 The mission of the church

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 11 The officers of the church
- 12 The governing assemblies of the church
- 13 The discipline of the church

# LESSON 6

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

# PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- The primary task & chief end of the church is to Worship God
- Nurture, edification of the saints – secondary
- Outreach, evangelism – secondary

**“Christianity is a liturgical religion.  
The church is first of all a worshiping  
community. Worship comes first,  
doctrine and discipline second.”**

**-- George Florovsky**



You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ ... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people ... (1Pet. 2.5–10).

# PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- The church is a spiritual house, a dwelling place for God
- It exists to proclaim the excellencies of God, to offer spiritual sacrifices through Jesus Christ

# THE NATURE OF MINISTRY

- Primary aim of every form of ministry is the glory of God
- Preaching, prayer, evangelism, charitable deeds, fellowship...
- Ministry is ministry because it serves God's glory

# THE NATURE OF MINISTRY

- All ministry has a liturgical nature and doxological aim
- Worship is the aim of all ministry and the fount from which all ministry flows
- Every activity the church is called to do serves God's glory

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, so that they might worship him.
- This was revealed in Moses' call and in God's orders to Pharaoh.

God said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." (Ex. 3:12)

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may worship me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'" (Ex. 4:22-23)

Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him."

(Ex. 24:1-2)



# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- The service at Mt. Sinai was a covenant making ceremony
- God established his covenant with the Israelites
- They became his people; He became their God

Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and 12 pillars, according to the 12 tribes of Israel. He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. (Ex. 24:4-6)

Then he took the Book of the Covenant [*chs. 20-23*] and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." [*covenant vow*]. And Moses took the blood & sprinkled it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." (Ex. 24:7-8)

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Covenantal nature of worship
- Worship is communion between God and his covenant people through his public ordinances
- Worship is a covenant ceremony; not evangelistic meeting; not entertainment

“An assembly of public worship is not merely a gathering of God's children with each other, but is, before all else, a meeting of the triune God with his covenant people. In the covenant, God promises his chosen ones that he will dwell among them as their God and they will be his people.” DPW

**“Public worship is covenantal communion between God and his people in his public ordinances.” DPW**

“Only those people whose hearts have been made new through God's grace by the work of the Holy Spirit can worship God.” DPW

**“As public worship is for the praise and glory of God and the building up of the saints, not for the entertainment of the congregation nor the praise of man, the character of the songs used therein is to befit the nature of God and the purpose of worship.” DPW**



“Musical gifts are properly used in public worship to assist the congregation in its worship of God. They may not be used for the praise or applause of men. No person may take a special part in the musical service unless he is a professing Christian who adorns his profession with a godly walk, or who is a baptized covenant child whose conduct is appropriate to his status.” DPW

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- 2 parties; 2 parts to the service
- Dialogical principle
- God spoke to them in the reading of the scripture
- They responded with the vow; “all that the Lord has spoken”
- Minister may serve as representative voice of God or of congregation

“Because a service of public worship is in its essence a meeting of the triune God with his chosen people, a worship service consists of two principal parts: those elements which are performed on behalf of God (through a representative voice) and those elements which are performed by the congregation (through their own or a representative voice).” DPW

**“By his Spirit working through the ministry of the Word, God addresses his people in the call to worship, in the salutation and benediction, in the reading and preaching of the Word, and in the sacraments.” DPW**

“His people, enabled by the Holy Spirit, address God in prayer, in song, in offerings, in hearing the Word, in confession, and in receiving and partaking of the sacraments.” DPW

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Role of minister; not to worship before or on behalf of; but to lead saints in worship
- No one is a mere spectator; all are worshipers and enjoy communion with God by his Spirit
- True of all elements of worship including preaching

“[It] is not only the preaching of the Word, but the receiving of the preached Word, which is worship. The whole congregation worships God by receiving his Word with humility and obedience. The ministry of the Word is not a solo sport, like a game of solitaire or playing tennis against the garage door. Preaching both honors God and builds up the Church. It is, as prayer, and in fact as all worship, the work of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ to the glory of the Father.” H. O. Old

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Elements of worship in Ex 24
- God calls them to worship (v 1)
- Sacrifices offered (vv 4-5)
- Covenant proclaimed (vv 4, 7)
- Covenant vow (v 7)
- Covenant sealed with visible signs: blood (8) and meal (9-11)



Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. (Ex. 24:9-11)

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Two ceremonies appended to declaration of covenant, for the purpose of sealing the covenant: baptism and L.S.
- The NT counterpart to the covenant vow is a confession of faith

“Individual believers are to publicly profess their faith in Christ before God and his people in order formally to pledge their commitment to serve Christ and to be welcomed into all the privileges of full communion with God's people. It is also fitting that the congregation as one body confess its common faith, using creeds that are true to the Word of God, such as the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.”

DPW

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Worship takes place in the presence of God
- In the OT, in earthly copies/shadows
- In the NT, in the true heavenly sanctuary
- Message of Hebrews

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched, and a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. For they could not bear what was commanded, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." ...

But you have come to Mount Zion, & to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly [ἐκκλησία] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant...

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace by which we may worship [λατρεύω] God acceptably with reverence and awe ... (Heb. 12.18–29).

“By the Spirit of the exalted Christ, God draws near to his people and they draw near to their God. They come by grace to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, joining innumerable angels and all the people of God in joyous and reverent communion with him.”

DPW



# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- The assembly exists for worship
- Having assembled on God's holy mountain, the church is called to worship with reverence and awe

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- When we assemble for worship, we enter the heavenly sanctuary where Christ serves as high priest & mediator of the new covt.
- The church is a heavenly assembly around the exalted Christ

Since we have boldness to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus ... & since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience & our bodies washed with pure water ... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.... (Heb. 10:19-25)

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- By the Holy Spirit, we enjoy communion with God in Christ, through the public ordinances of worship.
- Worship is a work of the Holy Spirit, not a work of man

For through him [Christ] we both have  
access in one Spirit to the Father.  
(Eph. 2:18)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:18-20)

“In an assembly of public worship, the triune God is not only the One to whom worship is directed, but also the One who is active in the worship of the church. Through his public ordinances, the covenant God actively works to engage his people in communion with himself. In public worship, God communes with his people, and they with him, in a manner which expresses the close relationships of the Father and his redeemed children, of the Son and his beloved bride, and of the Holy Spirit and the living temple in which he dwells.” DPW

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- 10 Commandments (Ex. 20)
- Prescribes true worship; forbids false worship
- Reveal the purpose of God's redemptive act and the covenant relationship



# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- **1<sup>st</sup> Commandment** – requires worship of true God; forbids worship of false gods
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Comm.** – requires true worship of true God; forbids false worship of true God

WSC

Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.

WSC

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- God regulates worship by his Word
- God alone has the right to establish worship
- His regulation of worship is prescriptive, not merely proscriptive

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Scripture must positively require a practice for it to be suitable for worship
- God prohibits matters of worship additional to scripture, not just matters contrary to it
- Scripture contains all necessary for establishing worship

“The acceptable way of worshiping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.”

WCF 21.1

“The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added ... there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God ... which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.” WCF 1.6

# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Comm. – requires us to call on God's name (invocare); forbids any profane use of God's name
- 4<sup>th</sup> Comm. – requires us to observe the Sabbath; forbids us to profane it



# LESSONS FROM THE EXODUS

- Tabernacle/Temple
- Earthly replica of God's heavenly sanctuary
- Metaphor for the church
- Place of worship, house of prayer

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 6

- Purpose of church
- Nature of ministry
- Purpose of the Exodus
- Covenantal nature of worship
- True worship; false worship

End of Lesson Six