

Introduction

In my *Public Worship: God-Ordained or Man-Invented?*, I promised a companion volume of annotated extracts from other writers who had put forward similar arguments to my own. Here it is.¹ I do not, of course, endorse everything they have said, nor do I pretend that any of the writers I quote agree with me on every aspect of the issue in question; indeed, as will be seen, they do not agree with one another at every point. Nevertheless, I hope this volume will provide valuable – though secondary – support for the biblical arguments I set out in my *Public Worship*. Consequently, that book should be read first.²

One vital point – and it must not be dismissed as mere semantics – concerns the use of the word ‘church’. As I explained in my *Public Worship*, although I still use the word ‘church’, in what may well prove to be a forlorn attempt to distinguish between Christendom and the new covenant, I increasingly prefer *ekklēsia*. Most of the writers I quote do not. When editing extracts, I have found it impossible to be consistent over this and other related matters – so deeply is Christendom-speak entrenched within me.

¹ Since, in the first volume, I quoted David Peterson extensively, in this work I have included no extracts from his *Engaging With God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*, IVP Academic, Downers Grove, 1992. Nevertheless, Peterson’s book is invaluable.

² I have not always noted minor changes of punctuation or grammar.