

In the Beauty of Holiness

Covenant Renewal Worship

Psalm 96:9

Why do we worship the way we do, and does the Bible give us any input on how to order our service? Today we begin a new series looking at our worship service, the church's weekly meeting with the Lord.

What is worship?

Worship is reverence, honor, adoration, devotion and obedience given to God, another person(s), or object.

Inescapable

Community

Weekly

What is a covenant?

The word "covenant" appears over 300 times in the Bible. A covenant is a relationship with God on his terms with blessings for obedience and correction for disobedience. A covenant is more than a contract and personal relationship. In a covenant, God:

- 1) Initiates and takes hold of something in order to create something new.
- 2) Divides and transforms the old into something new.
- 3) Teaches how to enjoy and flourish in the new creation.
- 4) Offers fellowship in a meal.
- 5) Arranges for continued enjoyment, faithfulness and succession of the covenant.

Being in covenant with God means that he loves and pursues us according to his loving-kindness.

How do we renew it?

C.S. Lewis said "The charge is feed my sheep not run experiments on my rats." We renew covenant with God because this is the biblical pattern, the story of the gospel embodied in worship. It humbles, edifies and nourishes us as we are transformed into the image of Christ. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the sacrifices of the old covenant so we are accepted by the Father through him, but we continue to worship, offering our sacrifices of praise. Both individual (e.g. ACTS) and congregational worship often if not usually follow this pattern: Confession → Consecration → Communion. Put a Call at the beginning and a Commission at the end of the service and you have our service. We are always in covenant with God, but he wants special time every week to serve, bless, and revive us, to worship him in the beauty of holiness.

NOTES FOR LITTLE SAINTS

Today's Passage: Psalm 96:9

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

1. What did God do on the seventh day, and why is this a great gift to us?
2. God special relationship with his people is called a covenant. What does God make known to those who fear him (Ps. 25:14)?
3. Our worship service renews our relationship, our covenant, with God. What are the five parts of our service (listed in your bulletin)? What part are we in right now?
4. Draw a picture of Adam and Eve hanging out in the Garden of Eden, resting and playing with the animals on the Sabbath.

Memory Verse to Recite Next Week:

*Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth! -Psalm 96:9*