

Three Keys to the Heart of Worship

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Preacher: David Corrente

[0 : 00] Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

[5 : 00] Amen. Amen.

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[10 : 00] Amen. Amen.

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[15 : 00] Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

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Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

[20 : 00] Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Come on in, we'll get started this morning.

Well, as people are making their way in this morning, I'd like to invite us all to stand as we prepare our hearts to worship our great and mighty King this morning.

I want to start by opening up with Psalm 108, just the first few verses of Psalm 108. He says, Let's join together this morning and sing.

Let's join together this morning.

[22 : 07] Oh, praise Him. Oh, creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing.

Oh, praise Him. Oh, praise Him. Oh, praise Him. Oh, praise Him. Oh, praise Him.

Oh, praise Him. softer oh praise oh praise yeah yeah yeah Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness.

Oh, praise Him. Alleluia. Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one.

Oh, praise Him. Oh, praise Him. Alleluia. Alleluia.

[23 : 48] Alleluia. All the redeemed washed by His blood, come and rejoice in His great love.

Oh, praise Him. Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ has defeated every sin.

Cast all your burdens now on Him. Oh, praise Him. Oh, praise Him.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

He shall return in power to reign Heaven and earth will join to sing Oh, praise Him, Alleluia Then who shall fall on bended knee All creatures of our God and King Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him Alleluia, Alleluia Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

[25 : 43] Good morning. Welcome to Squamish Baptist Church this morning.

Have a seat, everybody. My name is Dave Nannery. I'm one of the pastors here at our church.

We're grateful to have you here as we exalt Jesus as King, we equip His followers for ministry, and

we engage the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

On your way in, you were handed a bulletin, so be sure to take a look at the announcements there, fill out the communication card if you haven't, let us know who you are or any needs that you have. Just a reminder for those parents with children in youth group that there is an event tonight at the Ninja Gym, so that sounds pretty fun. I would, one thing that I'm very grateful for with our youth group as Chris and Lisa have been leading it is that the emphasis not just on having a fun time, but even more importantly, on developing the doctrine, developing the right thinking in these children that is necessary in order to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

So we're grateful for that, and grateful for the priority that is placed on that. At the same time, going to the gym, Ninja Gym is fun. So, glad for that too.

[27 : 08] All right. We're going to continue our worship through the reading of God's Word this morning, and we are going to be reading from 1 Kings 8. 1 Kings 8.

If you don't have a Bible with you, we would love to make sure you have one available to you. So just, if you don't have one, raise your hand and hold it in the air.

Our ushers are on the lookout for hands raised. And if you are using one of the Bibles that they handed out, you'll want to turn to page 288.

On page 288, you'll find 1 Kings 8, verses 12 to 30. So I'm going to read for us, and I would love for you to follow along as I read.

Let's all stand together in honor of God's Word as we read 1 Kings 8, verses 12 to 30. This is the account of Solomon's speech, and Solomon's prayer, as he dedicates the temple that he has built.

[28 : 12] Then Solomon said, The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.

Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. And he said, Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, then my name might be there.

But I chose David to be over my people Israel. Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. But the Lord said to David my father, Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.

Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son, who shall be born to you, shall build the house for my name. Now the Lord has fulfilled his promise that he made.

For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised. And I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. And there I have provided a place for the ark in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

[29 : 49] Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven and said, O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart.

You have kept with your servant David, my father, what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

Now, therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant David, my father, what you have promised him, saying, You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel.

If only your sons pay close attention to their way to walk before me as you have walked before me. Now, therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed which you have spoken to your servant David, my father.

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you. How much less this house that I have built.

[31 : 06] Yet, have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord, my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, My name shall be there, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place, and listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place, and listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

This is God's word to us this morning. I would like to invite forward the ushers. They're going to be collecting the morning offering. For those of you who are visitors or guests here, we're just grateful to have you, feel no obligation to give.

For those who call Squamish Baptist Church their home, this is our opportunity to give back to the Lord out of what he has entrusted to us. I'm going to pray for us this morning as we prepare to continue our worship.

God, we are reminded in this passage that there is no God like you. Our Solomon's efforts to worship you at this house, he sensed the inadequacy that nothing, there is no home, no place that can contain you.

You fill the highest heavens. You are also unique in that you keep your covenant, you keep your promises, you are faithful, and you are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

[32 : 43] And we are reminded of that. We live in a world in which we are reminded again and again of how tenuous and unstable our lives are.

With an upcoming election, the tragedy that took place in Vancouver last night, we are reminded again and again that what we think of as stable, what we count on, can be swept away in an instant. We grieve with those who have lost family members and loved ones, with those who have witnessed terrible tragedy last night. We ask that you, our God, who is stable and faithful and true, may be the one they turn to for comfort and for help and for rescue.

In a contentious election, in an uncertain future, we commit ourselves to you, our God. We are reminded that throughout history, your people have lived through turbulent times, through great loss, through great sorrow, and yet you remain steadfast, faithful, and true.

We commit ourselves to you, God, and we lift our eyes to you. We recognize that when we look to other people, they disappoint, they fail, they make very terrible gods, and they are not meant to be gods.

[34 : 14] But you are the one true God. You remain. And you are worthy of all glory and honor and praise. We worship you this morning not to feel better about ourselves, not to go through the motions, not to do it just because other people are doing it, but we worship you because of who you are.

You alone are worthy of all glory and honor and praise. What we say to you, Lord God, is just a small and inadequate shadow of the reality of who you are.

And I pray, Lord, as we fix our eyes on you today, may we be encouraged. May we have this sense. that though we fade away, our God remains faithful, true, steadfast, everlasting.

And we thank you that you have sent your only Son to die, to rise again, that we may be redeemed, that we may live with you forever and ever, our one true God.

Amen. Amen. Well, we just celebrated Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ that proves his power over death and sin.

[35 : 36] The one who believes in Christ will never grow tired of thinking about how Jesus has rescued sinners out of darkness. We'll never grow weary considering what a great salvation we have.

And this song is simple in the fact that it just says, I am an unworthy sinner, Jesus is a perfect Savior, and because of his perfect love for us, we have an eternal hope in Christ.

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene and wonder how he could love me a sinner condemned unclean.

And how marvelous, how wonderful and my song shall ever be.

How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me.

[36 : 56] For me it was in the garden, he prayed not my will but thine.

He had no tears for his own griefs, but sweat drops of blood for mine.

How marvelous, how wonderful and my song shall ever be.

How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me.

and my seniors In pity angels beheld Him and came from the world of light To comfort Him in the sorrows He bore for my soul that night How marvelous, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me He took my sins and my sorrows He made them His very own

[38 : 51] He bore the burden to Calvary And suffered and died alone How marvelous, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me

When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see T'will be my joy through the ages To sing of His love for me

How marvelous, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me How marvelous, how wonderful is my Savior's love for me

How wonderful is my Savior's love for me How wonderful is my Savior's love for me How wonderful is my Savior's love for me How wonderful is my Savior's love for me How wonderful is my Savior's love for me How wonderful is my Savior's love for me How wonderful is my Savior's love for me I look at your heavens, the moon and stars you set in motion, O God. I sing all glory and honor what is man.

You are my son of man, you would care for him. I sing all glory and honor, O Lord, our Lord.

O how awesome are your ways, how majestic is your name in all the earth. O Lord, our Lord, may we see your kingdom come.

[41 : 50] Father, may your will be done in all the earth. All the earth gave dominion to your children and you crowned them, O God.

With glory and honor so we'll sing of your name. Live our lives for your greatness, O God.

And your glory and honor, O Lord, our Lord. O how awesome are your ways, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, may we see your kingdom come. Father, may your will be done in all the earth.

The earth is full of the glory of God. Come make much of the name above all names.

[43 : 07] Creation cries out in every knee bow. Jesus we crown you, O Lord, our Lord.

The earth is full of the glory of God. Come make much of the name above all names.

Creation cries out in every knee bow. Jesus we crown you, O Lord, our Lord.

Oh Lord, our Lord, O Lord, our Lord. Oh Lord, our Lord. Oh how awesome are your ways, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Oh Lord, our Lord, our Lord. Father, may we see your kingdom come.

[44 : 26] Father, may your will be done in all the earth. Oh Lord, our Lord, may we see your kingdom come.

Oh Lord, our Lord, may we see your kingdom come. In all the earth. In all the earth. Psalm 119, verses 9-11 says, How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you. Let me not wander from your commandments. I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

As we prepare our hearts this morning to hear the preaching of God's word, let's remind ourselves to continue to store up his word in our hearts. Your words are wonderful, unfolding like the dawn.

A wellspring and the rock we rest upon. We trust your promises that keep our hope alive.

[46 : 09] They steady us throughout lives we recline. Where else can we go?

Where else can we go? You have the words of life. The words of life.

Come write your holy truth upon our longing hearts And strengthen us to shine against the dark.

Lord, guard us from the lies. The enemy will speak. No guilt remains for those you have redeemed.

Where else can we go? Where else can we go? You have the words of life.

[47 : 28] The words of life. Make your glory known. Make your glory known.

Through all your words of life. Your words of life. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see.

Help us in our doubt and unbelieve. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see.

Help us in our doubt and unbelieve. Where else can we go?

Where else can we go? Where else can we go?

[48 : 47] Where else can we go? Where else can we go? You have the words of life.

Make your glory known. Make your glory known.

Through all your words of life. Your words of life. Through all your words of life.

Your words of life. Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and Wise and All right, good morning, everyone.

My name's Teresa. I am teaching Sunday school today. So if any of the kids would like to come forward, we'll pray for you before we go to Sunday school. Wonderful. Let's pray for the kids today.

[50 : 11] Heavenly Father, I thank you for your love for us. I thank you for this opportunity that we have to come and worship you and to exalt your name today. And we pray that as we teach the

children about you and your love and how you are the one true prophet who has come to save us, Lord, that they will understand your words of life in your name.

Amen. Amen. What a stellar group of kids there.

What a blessing to have all of those kids that we get to pour into in the life of the church. Keep praying for those student leaders, those children's leaders as the next wave and generation of the church are being raised up.

Good morning, everybody. My name is David Corente. I have the joy and privilege of being a pastor here. If you are new, welcome. Hopefully we get to meet you and encourage you and strengthen you in the word of God as we get to gather together.

I invite you to open your Bibles this morning. God's inspired word to Isaiah chapter 66. Isaiah chapter 66.

[51 : 44] Thank you so much, music team, for leading us this morning and just wonderful singing, everybody, before we come into God's word. Let me pray for us. Father, we come to your holy and inspired word.

I pray that as you are with us this morning, that you are awesome in our sight. That you are the majestic holy one.

Whose words bring life to our bones. Brings life to our mind and our heart and our wills. Father, may you be glorious this morning as you build up your people.

From your word. And your son's precious and holy name. Amen. Isaiah chapter 66, verses 1 and 2. Thus says the Lord. Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool. Where then is a house you could build for me?

[52 : 59] And where is a place that I may rest? For my hand made all these things. Thus all these things came into being, declares the Lord. But to this one I will look.

To him who is humble. He had tread of spirit. And he trembles at my word. Certainly a joy to open up the word of God with you this morning.

And I am excited to get into the book of Romans. As a congregation next week. Isaiah is usually referred to from commentators as the Romans of the Old Testament.

Or Romans could be the Isaiah of the New Testament. When I have opportunity to preach in my new role here. My goal is to bring out issues that relate to us as a congregation.

That relate to the heartbeat of our ministry. To keep us engaged in all that the Lord is doing. I like to connect the truths that we have been learning together as a congregation.

[54 : 06] And how might that affect other areas of our lives. If you are new here and you do not know what has been happening over the past number of months. And maybe even the past year. That there is now two congregations into one.

The Lord has united two bodies. Two families. And now we are growing together as one plant. One seed. One vine. One vine.

One vine. One vine. The heartbeat of our elders meetings over the past number of months. Since this merge has been pretty much focused on one thing.

how are you growing in Christ? How are we as a church maturing and growing in this body to conform all of us into the image of Christ?

How are we doing that? That is the call of leadership. That is the call of the church. Are we cultivating the soil of ministry and planting on fertile ground as the Lord leads and guides each and every one of us from one stage of glory to the next?

[55 : 18] From one stage of growth to the next? It's a desire for this congregation to mature and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And so this text of Scripture, I believe, will help us as we transition and become one body from two where we need to start together as a congregation to cultivate this reality, to cultivate this fertile ground, and to ask the Lord to provide the right atmosphere and the right conditions for us to produce the harvest of ministry that He is farming out.

It is springtime, so please forgive all of these gardening and farming analogies. But it's right because Paul uses them a bunch as well.

Here's a question that we keep trying to analyze as leaders, and it's the question all of us should be analyzing and think about in our daily lives. Are we concerned about the same things that God is?

Are we prioritizing our ministry life the way that the Lord Himself would desire us to prioritize it? Do you wake up in the morning concerned about the same things that God is concerned about for your

life?

[56 : 41] The same things that God is prioritizing in this church ministry and body life? How would it be evaluated? How could we evaluate it?

It is the constant question we are asking ourselves. What is growth? What is unity? What is maturity? What does that mean for us?

And are we being faithful to what God is calling us to be and calling us to do? Are these your concerns as well? In your home? In your relationships?

In your Christian life? Do we as a church think about how we worship the Lord individually, collectively, from a Sunday morning gathering to the dinner table at home or reading a book to the kids at night or from one Bible study to a coffee to another interaction with a brother and sister in Christ?

Or maybe even someone who needs the gospel, who needs the truth. This text is begging that question, do we evaluate our lives as worshipers?

[57 : 56] So let's take some time this morning to allow the Lord to do some evaluating of our own hearts as well. What is the state of worship, of our worship, and how will that determine our ministry, discipleship, and unity as a church?

As Pastor B.K. has said, we want to capture the heart of worship in this ministry. So here's the proposition coming from Isaiah 66, that the heart of worship is the heart of the relationship you have and we have as a congregation with God as He reveals His Word to us.

Therefore, for us as a church, striving to grow as one, mature in growth, unity will be cultivated by the pursuit of the Lord together in His instructions for us.

as a church, striving to grow as one, mature in growth, and unity will be cultivated by the pursuit of the Lord together in His instructions for us so that He may bless us according to His grace.

He blesses His Word in His people. He blesses He blesses when His people honor Him and His Word.

[59 : 29] Here's kind of the main point. God defines all of our spiritual life. Look at the text this morning. God says, the Lord. It's my throne, He says about heaven.

It's my footstool, He says about earth. Where is the house you could build? Me. Where is the place that I may rest? My hand made all these things.

I made all these things come into being, declares the Lord. But to this one, I will look. The one who trembles at my word.

God is the one who is defining worship. God is the one who is defining discipleship, growth in worship. God defines the relationship between His creation and Himself.

His worshipers and Himself. The one who is to be worshipped. He defines the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable worship, acceptable and unacceptable discipleship.

[60 : 36] So we need to grow. We all do. If you're a disciple, you are a learner. And you will not stop learning until you see glory. and then you get to know all the things you got wrong.

We all do. It will all be revealed then. And it will be glorious. And it will be without sin. So we're not even going to point fingers at each other. This passage will help set the trajectory.

It will be a great encouragement before we get into Romans because Romans is going to say a lot of heavy things. A lot of good things. A lot of hard things. But what's the context here?

What are these six chapters? Why is He saying this now? Well, they're in a grave situation. There's a split in the kingdom as we already know because we walked through this, right?

In the Old Testament over the past number of months. There's grave sin in the kingdom. There's political alliances with other nations. There's foreign worship altars set up all around Israel.

[61 : 49] All the while, they still head to the temple and present their offerings to the Lord. Israel thought, well, if we just have the temple and if we just go to the temple and then approach our sacrifices superficially and live how we want, God's still going to favor us.

Where's people? He won't judge us. He won't discipline us. The book of Isaiah, the prophet Isaiah tells a very different story coming from heaven.

I want you to walk through this with me. Go to chapter one for a moment. Go to chapter one of Isaiah. What was the adjudication from heaven?

How was God seeing their situation? Isaiah chapter one, verse four.

At the end of the verse there, they have abandoned the Lord. They have despised the Holy One of Israel. They have turned away from Him. They abandoned God.

[63 : 01] Now, did they abandon Him completely? Did they run away and become atheists and kind of start a new nation? No, they were still calling themselves Israel.

They were still calling themselves followers of Yahweh, the one true and living God. Did they abandon the sacrifices? Did they abandon the temple? No? No? No?

Look at verse 11. What are your multiplied sacrifices to me? I've had enough of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle.

I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs or goats. When you come to appear before me, who requires of you this trampling of my courts? Bring your worthless offerings no longer.

They were still bringing sacrifices. They were still saying and proposing that they were worshiping. Verse 14, I hate your new moons, festivals, your appointed feasts.

[64 : 06] They become a burden to me. They were mixing pagan and righteous worship practices together. Look at verse 15. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you.

Yes, even though you multiply prayers. I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. They were still praying. They were still offering up their spiritual life.

And yet, they were full of hypocrisy. It was hypocritical. Look at chapter 2. Chapter 2, verse 6.

They become filled with influences from the east. Soothsayers like the Philistines. Their land has become filled with silver and gold.

There is no end to their treasures. Their land has been filled with horses. There is no end to their chariots. Their land has been filled with idols. They worship the work of their hands, that which their fingers have made.

[65 : 12] Look at all the things we have done. That's what they were saying. They were worshiping what they were bringing. They were worshiping themselves, ultimately.

Go to chapter 5. Chapter 5, verse 24. Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble and dry grass collapses into the flames, so their root will become like rot, and their blossom blow away as dust.

Here's the judgment. For they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

They rejected the very thing that God said, Here is how we have a relationship. Here is how you worship me. Here is how you will be blessed as a nation.

Here is how I am going to condescend to you, and dwell with you, and relate to you, and uplift you, and help you, and protect you.

[66 : 20] And they rejected it. Do parents ever feel like that sometimes? Where does it get down to?

Go to chapter 29. Chapter 29. You've heard this verse numerous times.

Jesus quotes it in the New Testament. Here's ultimately the reason for the judgment that was coming upon Israel. The way that they drew near to God with all of their multiplied sacrifices, worthless offerings, mixture of pagan rituals, vain prayers because of a hypocritical life.

Verse 13. Then the Lord said, Because this people draw near me with their words, and honor me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from me, and their reverence for me consists of tradition learned by rote, or traditions of men.

It was the heart. It was the inner life. It was what was happening on the inside, no matter what was happening on the outside.

[67 : 42] This is where God looks to. And we know that from David, right? God doesn't look to us the way that other people look to us.

God sees us, and He sees the heart. God will look upon us. He will look upon you. He will look upon this church. He will see the heart of what we are bringing to God.

They wanted a self-defined worship. They wanted a self-defined spiritual life. They already told Samuel, We want a king like all the other nations.

So God had to encourage Samuel and say, They're not rejecting you. They're rejecting me. Turn back to Isaiah chapter 66. You now know why.

In Isaiah chapter 6, God sends down that burning coal to touch the lips of Isaiah. To purify Him.

[68 : 42] Because that's what Israel needed. They needed a purification of God. They needed a right heart, and a right mind, and a right inner life to worship Him.

But they could not do that on their own. How could we know that this text, as well as speaking of worship, and discipleship with God, even here in this context?

Well, if you look down, it says, where is the throne, or my throne, where is the house that you're going to build for me? We read 1 Kings 8.

David read 1 Kings 8, talking about this building and this home for God, the temple. This footstool that God is resting His foot on is also in Psalm 132, verse 7.

Let us go to His dwelling place. Let us worship at His footstool. So the footstool is also used where God is dwelling, even at the temple. The temple was the presence of God in the midst of His people.

[69 : 46] The meeting place with God, therefore a symbol of God's choice of Israel. But it was also a barometer of what the relationship with God was like.

So just as Pastor BK preached about the exile, when they were away from the temple and the temple was destroyed, that was a symbol of what their relationship was truly like with God.

Look back at chapter 65. The problem is still there. Verse 3, a people, sorry, verse 2, who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts.

A people who continually provoke me to my face. And then He talks about the sacrifices. Offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense and bricks.

Go back to chapter 66. Go to verse 3. But he who kills an ox is one who slays a man.

[71 : 03] He who sacrifices a lamb is like the one who breaks a dog's neck. He who offers a grain offering is like one who offers swine's blood. He who burns incense as one who blesses an idol as they have chosen their own ways and their soul delights in their abominations.

They're bringing sacrifices and He equates it to murder. He says, you might as well sacrifice a dog. There's no difference than you're bringing a pig or what I've called you to.

It's their relationship with their God and how they relate to Him and what He has called them to be and called them to do.

This was God's concern for Israel and His concern for us. Our worship of Him through our relationship to Him and His Word. So we want to get to that this morning.

The heart of worship. Three keys to the heart of worship. And I might even interchange discipleship because we use that terminology because that's the life of the church to make disciples.

[72 : 13] That's what He said, Jesus said in Matthew 28. So from this text in Isaiah 66, three keys to the heart of worship. And you could even say maturing, growing, cultivating worship and discipleship.

And here's our first point this morning that God declares. Here's our first key this morning to the heart of worship that God declares. And the question is, what does God say?

Or what did God say about this? Look at verse 1. Thus says the Lord, Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool.

When it comes to this world, when it comes to your relationship with the one true and living God, when it comes to all of spiritual life, we must be in the habit of asking ourselves, what does God say?

What did God say about this? We're used to choices and options in this life. We're used to customer service. We're used to being waiting on.

[73 : 15] Many of you go to maybe all-inclusive resorts for a week. And then by the end of it, you're like, I could not live like this. Why? I hope so. Why? So many options.

We're used to customizing. We're used to modifying because of our preferences don't meet the proposed availability of what's there. Can I get this instead of that?

Can I put this on top of that? Can I choose this option and this package because it's my preference? Unfortunately, we cannot make that kind of transition into our relationship with God.

The God of the universe who created you and I, who created the body of the church and believe that somehow He is going to bend His will to our whims and pleasures and preferences.

Thus says the Lord, God speaks as sovereign authority and righteous judge. Sovereign authority just means He's in control because He made it all.

[74 : 23] And righteous judge means that He is the dividing line between moral and immoral, right and wrong. God defines all spiritual life, worship, discipleship, because He created it all and has the authority to command His creation.

And He is not apologetic about His word. He doesn't make excuses, nor does He have to justify Himself before us as if our approval is needed when He speaks.

You notice here where He is speaking from. Heaven. He is speaking from heaven on His throne where the place of seating and position dictates the reality of those before Him.

You go into a courtroom, the one who sits on the throne, that judge, dictates what happens in the rest of that courtroom. You go to a CEO's office on the 50th floor, he starts to dictate what happens all in the rest of the business.

The seat matters. The position matters. The name matters. He is high above in heaven and we are below on the earth.

[75 : 41] He is sitting on His glorious throne and His glorious seat and we are laid low on the earth. We are the ones that are but a vapor, are here today and gone tomorrow. He is the one who is eternal from beginning to end.

Both of these realities reveal our physical and spiritual position before God. God wanted Israel to see the gap of what was happening between Him and them. His proposed requirements of worship and their practice of the worship.

God condemned Israel in Psalm 50 verse 21 when He said, You thought I was just like you. We might not say it out loud, beloved, but we probably act like it more than we give ourselves credit for. That we think it would be a little bit better if God would took some of the advice that we gave Him about our life or even the world. But no, we are underneath.

We are the footstool. Psalm 110, Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. And if you are in Christ this morning, you are not an enemy. Hallelujah and amen.

[76 : 59] Resurrection, Passion Week, last week declares that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. If you are not in Christ this morning, you are an enemy of God.

But the position still, remember the position. We are underneath His feet, which is demonstrating His right over whatever His feet are on.

He has full rights to everything under His foot. Are you under His foot? He has sovereign rights over your life.

Is your family, your marriage, your kids under your feet? He has sovereign rights over all of it. Your job, each dollar you earn, He has sovereign rights over it. What about this ministry and everything that is conducted in this place?

[78 : 02] Is it under His feet? He has sovereign rights. Authority and a right to it all. God defines how we relate to Him.

When He speaks, He reveals. His creation doesn't arbitrate. They do not evaluate the divine command and the order of His sovereign right and will.

So if you go back into that earthly courtroom setting and you start doing what our hearts do sometimes in reality, what is that courtroom judge going to say?

You're not going to get very far. So for us, our maturity as a church, our growth and our discipleship and the pursuit of our worship towards this one true, holy and living God is a true north compass. When the God of heaven declares, when He speaks, any dispute we have, any question we have, any struggle, any burden of sin, any process, any calculation, any investment, any practice, we must begin to ask ourselves, what does God say?

[79 : 25] What has He spoken about this issue? You don't turn there, but just reference Isaiah 8, 19. He says, when you say, consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter, and God says, should a people not consult their God?

He's sitting there in heaven on His throne going, why are they asking me? I created them. Why aren't they coming to me? The throne room of heaven is open.

I've condescended. I'm bringing myself to the temple. You remember what the temple was? House of prayer. House of prayer for all the nations.

They could all come and consult God. The deep well of wisdom and maturity and unity within the life of the body will only be drawn from those who consult their God when He declares His word in a particular situation.

We want to get to the heart of worship as a people. Well, God declares and what does He say?

Second key to the heart of worship, growing and maturing worship, is that God examines.

[80 : 48] God examines and the question that we're asking ourselves here is, how is God wanting me to think? Okay, God declared something from heaven. I'm under Him. How does God want me to think now?

Look at verse 1 again. Where is the house that you could build for me? And where is the place that I may rest? For my hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being, declares the Lord.

I love it when the Lord does this. I love it when He asks such obvious questions to us. Do you get insulted sometimes when someone asks you an obvious question?

Maybe a snide remark, thank you Captain Obvious. But you know deep down inside you might have missed that question. Ah man, I missed it.

This is so needed for our hearts. Jesus did it all the time, didn't He? We just ask the obvious questions. Think of the Pharisees, the rich young ruler. It kind of sounds like at first glance that God's not even concerned about the temple at all.

[81 : 56] Almost nonchalant about it. Where's the house that you can build me? Where's the place of my rest? It's not the case. He told them to build the temple to the exact specifications with the exact materials and then He came and He presented Himself and He filled it with all of His glory.

What is He doing here? He's examining their thinking and making Israel examine their thinking about where is their hope? Where is their security? Where are they going to find their rest as a nation and as a people?

And ultimately, what is the status of their hearts? He's asking, do you think I really need this? Do I really need the wood and the mortar and the metal?

Everything that constructs the material? Am I really going to be confined to this space? Even Solomon in 1 Kings 8 when he prayed, he told Israel, no, He's not going to be confined here but He will dwell with us.

He will be in the midst of this. Israel took the temple for granted. They assumed their relationship with God as a covenant people just wouldn't change despite the way that they were living.

[83 : 17] like they could just go on as if His law didn't tell them the ways that He would judge for disobedience. God is saying, I made this?

The wood that you made this from? I grew the tree. The minerals and the elements for the metals that you casted the worship material?

Israel, I made all that by the power of my word and I can take it all back. It isn't a need of existence for me but it's not meaningless.

Just like this place, the drywall and the wood, the foundation, the carpet, this is not meaningless. It means something. This is where the people of God meet together. This thing is just made of wood, this pulpit, but it is where the word of God is proclaimed to its people.

There is meaning and significance in it but we don't put our hope in it. Think, what's happening in the next hundred years and whether you'll be here and whether this building will actually be here?

[84 : 30] They didn't examine God's word as their warning before judgment going into exile or His plea to them to turn in repentance. They didn't examine their responses in light of all that He said about the temple and its true meaning.

When God examined the heart, when He examines our heart, the goal is to reveal these areas that we are not thinking as we ought to. Are we taking part of our spiritual life for granted?

Are we taking some of the blessings that He gives us in Christ for granted? He wants us to think after Him. He wants us to conform to Him.

He declares His word as He is also unveiling our need to conform to it. Not just simply knowledge but by the way we apply the knowledge. Remember Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12.

It gets down into the thoughts and the intentions of your heart. It gets down to all the way to why you do something. All the way to why you think the way that you think.

[85 : 40] The very recesses of your soul that sometimes you have a hard time communicating or even understanding yourself. God's word gets into there and then the spirit of God comes in and helps you understand those.

Convicts. Encourages. He's concerned about your inner life and how you think about Him and how you draw near to Him.

So in that maturity is drawing closer to God in the inner life in the heart as He's examining your spiritual life as He's examining our spiritual life body and the church how we are growing how we are discipling how we are taking His word unity is cultivated not merely by thinking alike on a human level right?

That was what God has already said about Israel. They were trying to have unity amongst each other by something they drew up. By something they came up with together.

But unity is going to be cultivated as we think about coming Christ-like. So what Paul said in Philippians 2 think as Christ thought.

[87 : 05] The beauty of unity is that God creates us all differently. He doesn't create us all the same. We do have different desires and preferences and giftings and thoughts but we are still coming together in the same way that the body has different purposes.

different systems and cells but it all functions together. So we need to examine how we think about life and ministry.

And when God declares he is examining that thought process. And we ought to allow God to do that. Lastly here our third key to the heart of worship is that God favors.

God favors. What is God wanting me to change? Verse 2 But to this one I will look. To him who is humble and contrite of spirit and who trembles at my word.

The one whom I will look. But to this one one of the most precious realities that a child of God must wake up remembering that God looks upon us.

[88 : 27] God looks down on his creation. The infinite looks down towards the finite. The sovereign authority and righteous judge has a tender regard for his creation. Everything that he has made especially those who are worshiping him.

Who he's created in the image of his son Jesus Christ. Beloved he looks to give. He looks to bless. He looks to uplift. He looks to reveal himself and conform us to him. He's doing that. That's why I said God favors.

This word is to gaze upon or to behold. Think of a father tenderly looking towards their child seeing all that they do even the bad even the struggles even the heartaches even the disobedience to bring them up and to nurture them and to see the joy that it brings you that you are a cherished one in his heart.

That we would desire that we would desire the Lord to look at us with the joy of a father to behold this ministry to behold our homes to behold our marriages to behold our parenting to behold whatever life status we're in right now that he would look upon us in this way just one particular point of thought here that God's favor towards his children is that he would change us that he doesn't shy away from that reality remember in Old Testament Israel that part of the blessings for them in that covenant was to physically change their surroundings he could make the plants grow the way he wanted to he could keep armies away he could change the landscape topographically geographically we tend to think that

[90 : 48] God's favor upon us is keeping us in our comfortable place just don't rock the boat God don't make me go through this hard thing God's favor upon us as a child is changing us and transforming us which means as we examine our lives when he declares his word that something is going to come up sin is going to come up you can't have this many people in a room and not sin come up this is the house of God you know!

in your homes the closer range you get to people the more exposure you have to people the more that sin is revealed that's why I love this this is to the one I will look to this one which means it starts with us individually it starts with your own heart it starts with you standing before God and having the accountability as if it was just you and the Lord to be concerned!

with whatever log might be in your eye and not concerned about the specks that are in others the human heart loves to blame shift loves to look at others hates the accountability when there's no excuses we have to take full responsibility but this one is to one whom I will look who is humble contrite of spirit and who trembles at my word the one who is humble sees their desperate spiritual position this is the word for affliction or poverty you're overwhelmed by your lack of need you see it you come to the king you come to the judge and you just open up and hold out your pockets and there's nothing in them nothing you can offer it is total dependency upon God for everything in your life you see

God's word what it declares and you allow your mind to be examined by God and your heart to realize that without it I have nothing and I can do nothing not merely when you're in trouble not merely when you want something but you know you have nothing before your God you come in a state of desperate spiritual accountability!

Contritive spirit really interesting word because the only other time that this is used is with Mephibosheth remember the son of Jonathan grandson of Saul the the contrite of spirit is a

brokenness of spirit Mephibosheth says he was lame he was crippled and David came to him and invited him to his table and participated in the king's choice banquet when his grandfather was the one that was trying to kill him Mephibosheth didn't qualify for that he didn't qualify for that banquet he didn't qualify to come and to be in the presence of the king in that way David's graciousness brought him near broken in spirit means you know you don't qualify to be in the presence of the God who sits on the throne and whose foot is the earth stool on the earth to be looked upon by him and to be drawn into his family that you do not qualify on your own merits and you do not deserve to be in that position but because of

[94 : 37] God's mercy and his grace drew you near is Isaiah 57 15 for thus says the high and exalted one who lives forever whose name is holy I dwell on high and holy place and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit why in order to revive the hearts revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite it's a good thing to say that you have spiritual poverty a desperate there's no other place that you can go because he revives that he brings it to life lastly who trembles at my word this just means a sense of reverential fear a sense of seriousness when you open God's word the question here is how seriously do we take God's word when you read it when you hear it does it register that the holy sovereign righteous

God and the one that has the power to judge and the power to save is speaking the one who looks upon you as a father with tenderness and love when the God of the universe speaks when he declares do you listen do you turn your ear is there a sense of worshipful reverence for what he is trying to say when you open up your seriously as if God were saying it to you personally there as you sip your morning coffee on your couch it was already prayed today that God never changes yesterday today and forever the same God who said let there be light and it was and the same one who says thus says the Lord same God same truth is there a reverential joy! and encouragement when he comforts you and strengthens you and your thinking is not quite right or there's revealing a pattern of sin and the possibility of consequences when you disobey when God speaks do you tremble do you take it receive it cling to it God told Moses in Deuteronomy 32 take this to your heart with the words I am warning you it is not an idle word for you indeed it is your life it's your life Jesus is our precious example of this he is the one that although he was rich became poor for our sakes he was the one that is humble at heart he is the one contrite of spirit who did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped although he was the most qualified he came to our lowly position he trembled at his father's words in the garden of Gethsemane and said not my will but yours be done Jesus lights the path of discipleship for us lights the path of worship for us so that as we grow together in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ God will look upon us we will be pleasing doesn't mean it's not going to be hard if you go to the passages in scripture that talk about scripture think of 1st Timothy 4 preach the word in season and out of season what does it say reprove rebuke and exhort it's heavy it's going to be hard what about 1st Peter 2 right we want to long for the pure milk of the word but what! does he say before that Peter says put away all malice and deceit and hypocrisy as you're longing for the pure milk of the word read psalm 19 sometime this week and just see all of the ways that the word of God helps change you what happens to your heart when it's confronted what happens when your own ideas and way of thinking and perceptions are challenged by the word of God maybe you've heard someone say this before well I feel like God would want me to do this or I feel like God is telling me to do this or God would never want this for my life stop before you make that next statement you better have

[99 : 31] God God's word directing that statement lest you be taking the Lord's name in vain if you think you have God's approval you better have God's word and God's instruction if you want to take your own spiritual temperature your relationship with God is going to be in connection with the relationship with his word and his people that's what this text is saying here's the one I look here's the one that I relate to here's the one that I favor here's the one that I change the one who is humble can try to!

spirit and trembles the Lord has been so kind to us I look about this room and I do smile so thankful the opportunities that we have here in this ministry to grow the different ages stages of life demographics spiritual gift maturities of faith there is no lack of ways that we have to unify together no lack we have no lack of ways to mature we have no lack of ways to grow together but we must start here we must anchor here in a life of worship of humility dependency and trembling on God's word for him to look upon us and to bless the work of our hands because it comes from him let's

pray father we thank you for this passage what a grace it was to Israel what a grace it was to them to be reminded that it is not the external that you look upon but it's the internal would I pray that we would be a needy people that we would not be self sufficient and prideful father would you continue to remind us of this lowly position so that you would exalt us in due time!

so that you would look upon us with favor and bless the work of our hands and whatever comes from this ministry as we grow together we can look back and say look what you did look what God did may you look upon us and say well done good faithful servant!

we ask in the only way we can through the living word of God your son Jesus Christ amen respond this morning to what we've just heard I'll bless your name oh God each day that I awake from dawn to setting sun your greatness I'll proclaim your glory far exceeds all human thought so with each breath

[103:27] I'll bless your name oh God your name will be revered by children yet to come as generations sing of wonders you have done your strong and mighty deeds are always near oh God most high your name will be!

revered! how great is the Lord and greatly to be praised how great is the Lord our God how great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

your gracious hand provides for all who live and breathe your mercy runs to find the helpless and the weak!

when we call out to you you hear our cries and all our needs your gracious hand provides how great is the Lord and greatly to be praised how great is the Lord our God how great is the Lord and greatly to be praised for forever without end creation will rejoice when works of wicked men you finally destroy your power will proclaim till

Christ descends and you will reign forever without end how great is the Lord and greatly to be praised how great is the Lord our God how great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

[106:25] and greatly to be praised! and greatly to be praised and greatly praised greatly to be praised when Solomon was at the temple he was reminding them what God did who he was and what he would do so I'm going to do that from the new testament Ephesians chapter 3 now to him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever and all God's!

people said Amen you're dismissed have a blessed day had a had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one had a one Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[110:32] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[113:02] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[115:32] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[118:02] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.