

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP

Practical Wisdom for your Life

August 23rd, 2020, 11:15 AM via Zoom

Worship, Why You Need it More Than Ever

People can think correctly and behave rightly and worship politely but still live badly: live anemically, live individualistically self-enclosed lives, live bored and insipid and trivial lives.

Eugene Peterson, As Kingfishers Catch Fire

In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such things as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship...is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.

David Foster Wallace, Novelist

Your priorities in life aren't just marginal options. They are life-determining. Your personality is molded inescapably into the image of what you give priority....We become like the god we worship.

Richard Halverson, Former Chaplain of the Senate

Since we stay not here, being people but of a day's abode...we must look somewhere else for an abiding city, a place in another country to fix our house in, whose walls and foundation is God, where we must find rest, or else be restless forever.

Jeremy Taylor, 17th C. Anglican bishop

Truly, it is in the darkness that one finds the light, so when we are in sorrow, then this light is nearest to us.

Meister Eckhart

And I smiled to think God's greatness flowed around our incompleteness,
Round our restlessness His rest....

Rhyme of the Duchess, E.B. Browning

Centering question

What do you find most meaningful about worship?

Why?

This week's Biblical passage

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

Discussion questions and background

1. What does this psalm ask you to do?
2. What do you think it means "a great King above all gods?" Do we have gods today? What might they be?
3. What do these images of God as a King tell you about God?
4. What does this image of God as a shepherd with we being his sheep tell you about God?
5. How do both these images help you worship?
6. What do you think all these words about rest mean? What do you think it means to enter God's rest? How does Jesus free us to do that?

Closing thoughts

I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross....In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?

John Stott

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take heaven!
No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace!

Fra Giovanni Giocondo, Friar and architect, 1453-1515

God has made us for himself. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God.

St. Augustine