

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 2 No. 5 May 3, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

AARON GIBSON WILL BE PRESENTING OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERMON

Prayer List

- **Ernest Peeples** - deployed in Iraq.
- **Ken Holloway** – will be having eye surgery on May 7th.
- **Dema Franklin** - visiting her son in Northern California.
- **The Austin family** – in Oregon for Darcy’s graduation.
- **Jason Henderson** - back east visiting his family.
- **Vicki Barton’s** mother, Lisa - recovering from surgery.
- **Yedid Minjares’** mother - recovering from surgery.
- **Martha Holloway** - recurring back and heart condition.
- Jeanne Lynne - undergoing chemotherapy treatments.
- **Ken Holloway’s** brother, Chuck and **Daniel Hoskins’** Dad, Benjamin.

DELIGHTING IN GOD

Gary Henry

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."
Revelation 5:13

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. Never have I stood before its awesome vastness and its exquisite beauty without being moved spontaneously to say, however inadequately, how glorious it is. And I have never failed to hear others burst forth in words of wonder. Indeed, one would pity the person who either failed to delight in such grandeur or was incapable of sharing his delight,

C. S. Lewis has reminded us, in his inimitable way, that enjoyment not only overflows into praise, but that the praise is an important part of the enjoyment. Delight is incomplete until expressed, as any young lover knows, And the worthier the object, the more intense is the desire to enjoy and praise. Since God is the most worthy of all praiseworthy objects in the universe, we have here a clue to the joy of worship.

It may well be true that the chief end of man is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” If so, God’s command to glorify Him is actually an invitation to enjoy Him, since the glorifying is part of the joy. If the enjoyment of the Grand Canyon is somehow not complete unless we praise it, how much more is that true of Him who could make the Grand Canyon! Thomas Carlyle has said that “wonder is the basis of worship.” He was right. And one would be pitiable indeed who either was not filled with wonder before God or did not experience joy in the expressing of that wonder through worship.

How exactly would we define “worship?” It is the expression of loving reverence and honor, the combination of adoration and veneration. As we have already hinted, it has very much to do with God’s worth. Interestingly enough, our English word “worship” descends from the Old English word “weorthscipe” which literally meant “worth + ship.” Practically speaking, worship is the expression of tribute to God’s “worth” — His praiseworthy nature, attributes and works. The worshiper praises God, glorifies God, honors God.

The Bible is chock-full of worship to God. Consider just two examples, In Revelation 5:13, the innumerable hosts in heaven and earth are pictured worshipping God in these words: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” →

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All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with
thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

Sing to the LORD a new song;
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
Proclaim good tidings of His salvation
from day to day.
Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.
For great is the LORD and greatly to be
praised.
He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the LORD made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before Him,
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Psalm 96:1-6

Praise to the Lord
The Almighty, The King of creation
O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and
salvation
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath come now with
praises before Him
Let the amen sound form this people again
Gladly forever adore Him

Stralsund Gesangbuch

[Delighting in God]

And in **1 Timothy 1:17**, there is one of Paul's frequent doxologies (the Greek word *doxa* means "glory"); "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen." In all such passages, the common denominator is the praise of God.

A good many of the songs in our hymnbooks are songs of worship, and they are intended to be joyous songs in which we give expression to our delight in God. (Incidentally, a "hymn" is a song of praise, in distinction to other types of spiritual songs.) "Worthy Art Thou" is a good example of a human effort to "give to the Lord the glory due His name" (**Psalm 96:8**). The joy of singing such songs is the joy of the creature in the act of appreciating and expressing the worthiness and glory of his Creator. It is the most "natural" of the joys that can be experienced by a human being.

Now, it is undeniably true that the joy of worship must be kept within the bounds of God's own pleasure. He has taught us that His thoughts are higher than ours (**Isaiah 55:8-9**) and we ought not to think any expression of joyful reverence must be honoring to Him. Jesus was emphatic when He taught that those who truly worship do so "in spirit and in truth" (**John 4:23-24**), When, however, a Christian does worship like that, he knows the joy that naturally flows from praising the Most Praise-Worthy.

Now here is our point; this uplifting joy of worship is and ought to be a personal thing, a daily experience. The joy that Christians have together when they assemble as a congregation for worship is a very special treasure. (To minimize or neglect it may mean being lost.) But the child of God does not have to wait until he goes "to church" to experience the joy of worship. He can enjoy that every day he lives. He can joyously sing and pray, as did Paul and Silas even in prison in **Acts 16:25**. He can joyously meditate upon the praises of God and His word, as did the "blessed" man in **Psalm 1:2**.

When he makes personal worship a way of life, the Christian finds joy to be just one of several benefits: closer fellowship with God, spiritual strength and maturity, and more meaningful congregational worship. As he sets aside specific daily times of personal devotion and praise, and as he allows himself spontaneously to praise God throughout the day, the Christian discovers the joyous goodness of fellowship with God. And when he does, he is getting but a foretaste of heaven, where the joy of worship will be complete and unending!

Excerpted from Focus Magazine, March 5, 2009

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