

Reference: VARIOUSChurch: GRACE Date: WEEK 10

Public Worship - other Biblical elements

Purpose: To indicate other aspects of public worship which are clearly sanctioned by Scripture - to show the Biblical evidence for them and encourage wholehearted participation in them.

1. Introduction

Continuing series on worship

What place do the 10 commandments have?

What important principle did we see next?

Then looked at preaching

Then at prayer

What did we look at next?

Was singing a part of the life of the early church?

What kind of singing?

What content? Psalms, hymns & spiritual songs

How should we sing?

This week – other elements

2. Call to worship

2.1. *Biblical evidence*

Many OT evidences

The word “Convocation” means “with calling”

Leviticus 23:8 But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord. On the seventh day is a holy **convocation**; you shall not do any laborious work.’”

God calls Moses to worship

Exodus 24:1 Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance.

Many Psalms are written as calls to worship

Psalm 95:1-5 O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the Lord is a great God And a great King above all gods, 4 In whose hand are the

depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also. 5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land.

Psalm 96:7-10 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts. 9 Worship the Lord in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. 10 Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Psalm 99:5,9

5 Exalt the Lord our God And worship at His footstool; Holy is He.

9 Exalt the Lord our God And worship at His holy hill, For holy is the Lord our God.

NT

We have been called by God to praise Him:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Our whole life is an act of worship to which God has called us

2.2. *Purpose*

Why do we have a call to worship?

Because it is God who calls us

He takes the initiative

We do not worship because it suits us

But because that is our calling from God

Useful reminder of what we are about

3. Public Reading of Scripture

3.1. *Biblical evidence*

OT

Nehemiah 8:1-8 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 4 Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand. 5 Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people

answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place. 8 They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

NT

Synagogue worship

Jesus:

Luke 4:16-17 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him.

At Pisidian Antioch, Paul & companions in synagogue:

Acts 13:15 After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

Acts 13:26-27 Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. 27 For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing either Him nor the utterances of the prophets **which are read every Sabbath**, fulfilled these by condemning Him.

Acts 15:21 For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is **read in the synagogues every Sabbath.**"

Colossians 4:16 **When this letter is read among you**, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.

1 Thessalonians 5:27 I adjure you by the Lord to **have this letter read to all the brethren.**

1 Timothy 4:13 Until I come, **give attention to the public reading of Scripture**, to exhortation and teaching.

Properly done, this is a sermon in its own right

3.2. Purpose

Why would we have the reading of Scripture?

It is God's word

Teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness

4. Offering

4.1. Biblical evidence

OT

Many offerings: sin, guilt; burnt; freewill; drink; grain

NT

What are our main offerings to be under the NT?

We are to offer the sacrifice of praise

Nevertheless it is clear that financial offerings were made in the church

Matthew 6:2 So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Acts 4:34-36 There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement),

Romans 12:6-8 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; **he who gives, with liberality**; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. 3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; 4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, 5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 9:1-7 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3 But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; 4 otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence. 5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness. 6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

4.2. Purpose

- To demonstrate our love
- To show our commitment
- To acknowledge that all we have is His
- To help the poor (spiritually and physically)
- To support the work of His kingdom

1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

5. Benediction

5.1. Biblical evidence

OT

Numbers 6:23-27 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: 24 The Lord bless you, and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; 26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' 27 So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

NT

Clearly there were many blessings in use – Paul concludes letters with them

So many would have been read in public worship

1 Corinthians 16:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Galatians 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

Colossians – Grace be with you

Philippians 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

1 & 2 Tim - Grace be with you

Titus – Grace be with you all

Philemon 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Hebrews 13:25 Grace be with you all.

1 Peter 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

3 John 14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Revelation 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

5.2. Purpose

We should earnestly desire spiritual blessings

We should pray them for one another

Benediction is seeking God for His grace and blessing to rest upon His people.

6. Conclusions

We have seen many of the other elements of public worship

Must not lose sight of the principles

Do them out of reverence for God

Do them in keeping with the 10 commandments

Do them so that the character of God is reflected in them

Next week – Lord's Supper