

Pastor Steve Viars
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“Passionately Pursuing our God in Worship and Music” “The Focus of Worship”

One of the positive things happening in churches today is a renewed interest in and emphasis on worship. One of the negative things happening in churches today is a renewed interest in and emphasis on worship. (*Real Life – Real Worship*, by Tony Beckett)

The Heart of Worship

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come.
Longing just to bring, something that’s of worth, that will bless your heart.
I’ll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required.
You search much deeper within, through the ways things appear; You’re looking into my heart.
I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about You, all about You, Jesus.
I’m sorry Lord, for the things I’ve made it.
When it’s all about You. All about You, Jesus.

Matt Redman, Kingsway Thankyou Publishing

Luke 24:25-27 – And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The focus of our worship should be on our sufficient Savior.

I. The Focus of Worship with Moses

A. The sinfulness of man

1. The Egyptians were murdering the sons of the Jewish people – *Exodus 1:22*

2. The Egyptians had enslaved the Jewish people and were treating them harshly – *Exodus 1:11-14*

Exodus 2:23 – ...And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of *their* bondage rose up to God.

B. God’s presence

1. He heard them – *Exodus 2:24*
Exodus 2:24 – So God heard their groaning...

2. He providentially orchestrated the rescue of Moses – *Exodus 2:1-10*

3. He appeared to Moses – *Exodus 3:2*

4. He spoke to Moses – *Exodus 3:4*

5. He showed compassion – *Exodus 3:9*

Exodus 3:9 – Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

6. He promised His personal presence – *Exodus 3:12*

Exodus 3:12 – And He said, Certainly I will be with you...

C. God's purity – *Exodus 3:5*

Exodus 3:5 – ...remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.

D. God's power – *Exodus 4:2-9*

E. God's preeminence – *Exodus 3:10-14*

Exodus 3:14 – God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

F. God's provision

Exodus 3:7-8 – The LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey...

II. The Focus of Worship at the Passover.

- A. The preeminence of God in the first nine plagues

- B. The purity of God in His judgment of sin

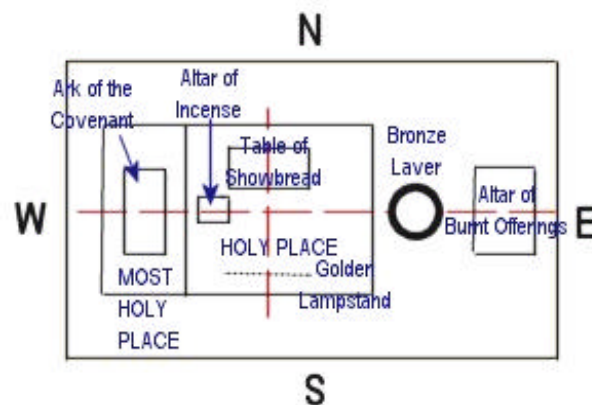
- C. The provision of God by passing over those covered with the blood of the lamb

Hebrews 9:22 – ...without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

III. The Focus of Worship in the Tabernacle.

- A. The altar of burnt offering.



- B. The bronze laver.
[See picture above.]
- C. Table of showbread.
[See picture above.]
- D. Golden lampstand.
[See picture above.]
- E. Altar of incense
[See picture above.]
- F. Ark of the covenant.
[See picture above.]

John Frame – Therefore, all the tabernacle and temple furniture speak of Christ (Heb. 9:1-5). The altar of burnt offering speaks of His sacrifice of Himself. The basin...speaks of Christ as the priest who is perfectly clean, free from any defilement, and who cleanses His people. The lampstand represents Christ as the light of the world. The bread of the Presence and the manna...present Christ as the one who feeds His people. The altar of incense and Aaron's rod represent Christ as the priest whose prayers for his people always ascend to the Father's throne. The Most Holy Place was opened to us at the death of Christ, when the veil of the temple was torn in two. Through Christ, we enter boldly (Heb. 10:19-25). The ark, God's throne in Israel, represents Jesus as "God with us," Immanuel. The tablets of the law speak of Christ as God's eternal Word.

John 1:29 – ...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John 6:35 – ...I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

Revelation 5:12 – saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

John Frame – Clearly, then, Christian worship should be full of Christ. We come to the Father only by him (John 14:6). In worship we look to Him as our all-sufficient Lord and Savior. Christ must be inescapably prominent and pervasive in every occasion of Christian worship.