

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor / Opening Prayer by: Bobby Rader
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#615 He Keeps Me Singing
#659 I Love to Tell the Story

Scripture Reading by: Braylen Butler
#315 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Communion Devotional by: Don Lynn
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#650 Send the Light
**Sermon: "Proclaiming the Gospel of
the Kingdom: Proclaim"**
Mark 1:14-15

#924 Just As I Am
#881 Mansions Over the Hilltop
Closing Prayer by: Kelly McCain

We are watching the Chosen series
tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

July 20, 2025

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

What We Need to Change to Make Worship More Enjoyable

This is another article by Wes McAdams, whose writings I have often reprinted and commended in this space. Check out "Radically Christian," his substack, for more great content. I believe this one certainly presents something for us to think about. BP

For many Christians, the worship assembly feels like a "duty," in the worst sense of the word. Coming to the worship assembly is something they feel they must do, but not something they *enjoy* doing. This has left many saying, "It shouldn't be this way; worship should be enjoyable!" I wholeheartedly agree! But I'm afraid the way many are trying to make worship more enjoyable is resulting in making worship shallow, meaningless, and not even worship at all.

Why Worship Should Be Enjoyable

Praising God with our Christian family should be the thing we find more enjoyable than any other. It should be something we look forward to all week long. It should be our joy and delight. This is true for the same reason that the night a football team wins a big game, the fans can't wait to talk to one another about the big win. They call each other on the phone, they post about it on social media, and when they see each other in person, they excitedly say, "Can you believe it?! Wasn't that incredible?!" **They enjoy talking about it almost as much as they enjoyed watching the game in the first place.**

Everyone who has ever enjoyed something knows this feeling. When we're on a great vacation, we almost can't wait for it to be over so we can get home, tell people about it, and show them the pictures. When we have a great meal, we can't wait to share with someone how great it was. In fact, we could say, half the enjoyment is found in **expressing our enjoyment**. Isn't it frustrating and disappointing to experience something great, but yet be unable to share it with someone? C.S. Lewis wrote about this, saying, "We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment."

When we truly enjoy God for who He is then we will be longing, aching, dying to sing out to someone, "Isn't God awesome?!" And when they answer back, "Yes! Yes, He is awesome!" we experience the greatest pleasure available in this life.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Raquel Steed and Jenny Steed Ganneg, friends of Lori & Walden David have both been diagnosed with cancer.

Anthony Semien, Lori David and Lisa Orebo's brother, had a stroke. He has been moved to TIRR in Houston.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Oscar Cantu, Jennifer Stelly, Steve Ward, Geri Cryer, Gloria McKelroy, Scott Overton, Rickey Lucas, Debbie Lynn, Kim Berka, Steve Lunceford

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis, Jo Ella McKewen

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific, Mani Pagidopali in India

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, July 21st at 5:30 p.m..

Bridal Shower for Hope & Dylan Balch on Sunday, Aug. 3rd from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship room. For more information see Patti Davis.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Sammie Minchew and her family on the passing of her brother in Arkansas. He passed away last week.

Food Bank

We served 131 families on Thursday, July 17th at our food bank. That equals to 425 individuals. We had 22 volunteers.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

What We Don't Need to Change

But when people don't experience the pleasure we intuitively know worship should bring, they often try to manufacture it through artificial means. They adjust the lighting, update the music style, incorporate drama and skits, use video and other technology, all in an effort to manipulate people's emotions and "help them enjoy worship."

But is this even worship? Are those who are enjoying this experience really enjoying God or are they simply enjoying an entertaining show? If it takes a change in lighting – or a change in music style – for you to enjoy sharing with your church family how great God is, maybe you need to stop and ask yourself if what you're doing can even be called "worship." Worship comes from a heart that has been stirred by the goodness of God – as revealed through the Gospel – and NOT by a heart that has been manipulated by dimmed lights and talented performers.

What We DO Need to Change

If we want to make worship more enjoyable, here is what we do need to change....our hearts! We need to fill our hearts with the "word of Christ" so it dwells within us "richly" and then we'll be able to, "[sing] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God" (**Colossians 3:16**).

When we daily allow God to reveal Himself to us through the "word of Christ," then our enjoyment grows and grows throughout the week, finally being completed when we assemble to, "[address] one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God" (**Ephesians 5:19**). And this weekly assembly is just the foretaste of the great assembly that will gather around God's throne in heaven to enjoy Him forever!

Sadly, many of us don't think of the worship assembly in this way. We don't look forward to it. We're not longing, aching, and dying to come together with our church family and sing to another, "Our God is an awesome God." Some are content to simply show up and say, "I've done my duty."

But **God is not honored by the praise of people who do not enjoy Him**. If we don't enjoy worship, we don't need to change the music or the lights, we need to change our hearts. We need to start enjoying God every moment of every day, and then we will desperately long for our enjoyment to be completed by praising Him with our church family.

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575

Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;

Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737

Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ