

HOW TO BEHAVE IN WORSHIP.

Psalms 100.

August 6, 2006 sunday morning.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. You might be in a Redneck Church if...
 - 1. The doors are never locked.
 - 2. The Call to Worship is "Y'all come on in!"
 - 3. People grumble about Noah letting coyotes on the Ark.
 - 4. The Preacher says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering", and five guys stand up.
 - 5. The restrooms are outside.
 - 6. Opening day of deer hunting season is recognized as an official church holiday.
 - 7. A member requests to be buried in his four-wheel drive truck because, "I ain't ever been in a hole it couldn't get me out of."
 - 8. In the annual stewardship drive there is at least one pledge of "two calves."
 - 9. Never in its entire 100-year history has one of its pastors had to buy any meat or vegetables.
 - 10. When it rains, everybody's smiling.
- B. That's certainly one way to behave in worship. But is there a right way to behave in worship?
 - 1. Psalms 100 give us our answer.
 - 2. Let's notice a few things about his psalm.
 - a. Its what's called a "praise" psalm.
 - b. It provides instruction on worship.
 - c. Verses 1-2 tell us "how" to worship.
 - d. Verse 3 tells us "why" to worship.
 - e. Verse 4 is another call to "how" to worship.
 - f. Verse 5 tells us again "why" to worship.
 - 3. What does this psalm tell us about how and why to worship?

I. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW SHOULD WE BEHAVE IN WORSHIP?

- A. We've grown up being told and taught that we're supposed to be quiet in church.
 - 1. As kids we were repeatedly warned to sit still and be quiet!
 - 2. This has been reinforced by the thought that silence is the way to show reverence to God.
 - 3. There's a choir anthem that says...
 - "The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."
 - a. This comes from Habakkuk 2:20.
 - b. The context of this verse isn't worship, but God's judgment on unbelieving nations.
 - c. In fact, most of the time that the word "silence" is used in Psalms it refers to judgment and death-Psalms 115:17.
 - 4. Does this mean there is never a time to be silent in worship? No, there are indeed times when that's appropriate and needed, like right now for example.
 - 5. The point is that silence is not the main characteristic of worship, it's a cultural preference, not a scriptural admonition.
- B. The Psalmist says worship isn't a time for silence. What is it a time for?
 - 1. Worship is a time to shout-v.1.
 - This is the same word used in Joshua 6:16 that is translated, "Battle Cry".
 - 2. Worship is also a time for joy-verses 1-2 & 4. ("gladness" and "joyful song"). In other words enthusiasm and excitement.
 - 3. We are able to do this at Friday night and Saturday ball games.
 - 4. Why do we think we should come to church then on Sunday and fall into a coma?

II. WHAT IS WE DON'T FEEL LIKE SHOUTING?

- A. Remember the children's chorus? "I've got joy, joy, joy ,joy down in my heart, Down in my heart, down in my heart.....".
 - 1. But what if we don't have that joy down in our heart?
 - 2. Do we try to bring it up? Do we fake it? What do we do?
- B. The Psalmist helps us again at this point. Remember this 100th Psalm not only tells us "how" to worship but also "why" to worship. When we don't feel like shouting or singing we should remember why we are to worship and focus on that. Why should we worship, according to this passage?
 - 1. First, we worship because of who God is-v.3a.
 - a. The word "LORD" is in all caps.
 - b. Whenever you see this in the Bible it refers to God's most personal name, "Yahweh".
 - c. When we don't feel like shouting focus on who God really is and see if that helps.
 - 2. Second, we worship because of what God has done-v.3b. "He has made us". Worship acknowledges that God is our creator.
 - 3. Third, we worship because of who we are-v.3c "his people, sheep, etc.
 - 4. Fourth, we worship because of what God is like-v.5. What is he like?
 - a. He is good.
 - b. He is love.
 - c. He is faithful.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We don't have to be "rednecks" to worship. Although , it might help!
- B. We don't have to pretend we're at a funeral either.
- C. Remember what the Psalmist teaches us.
 - 1. We should shout and sing to the Lord.
 - 2. And if we have trouble doing this, focus on who God is, what He does, and what He is like.