

Biblical Injunction to Praise and Worship:

Worship expressions vary throughout the world, just as the objects of worship vary. Worship, in essence, is to value something or someone to the degree that your values absorb your time, energy, affections and resources.

Worship is not exclusive to the church. Prevalent expressions of worship today include:

Worship of nature (Green Movement),

Worship of wealth (Example: Hedgefund and Sub-Prime Avarice leading to global financial melt-down),

Worship of celebrity (arts, entertainment, sports) and

Worship of self (spending more on pampering ourselves than what we give to the indigent, outcast and widows and orphans). These are just a few large and growing worship arenas.

I want to investigate with you the worship expressions of the church. Worship expressions in the church cover a wide arc of displays. For example in corporate worship you have the meditative, the formal, the liturgical, the contemporary, the "traditional" and blended (schizophrenic) services. All of these expressions have some over-lap, but include people that are sure **their way is "the right way".**

This reminds me of a joke concerning the Irish, and being of Scot-Irish descent, I feel at liberty to include it.

How do you know the difference between an Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman?

"The Englishman goes to his house of worship on the seventh day and prays. The Scotsman goes to his house of worship on the seventh day and prays, then he preys on his neighbors the other six days. The Irishman, on the other hand, is fully prepared to die for what he believes in... but has no earthly idea what that may be."

It is of paramount importance that we as God's people understand what we believe and possess the ability to articulate why we worship and how we worship the Lord of all Creation from a biblical perspective.

In the next few moments we are going to establish a Biblical/ Musical Platform for the kind of healthy corporate worship prescribed by the One we worship.

Vocal Music

The psalmist declares:

Psa 96:1 O **sing unto the **LORD** a **new** song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.**

Sing:

- Shiyr (Shoor) To sing. The **the idea of *strolling* minstrelsy); to *sing*.**

Lord:

y^eho ▪ va ▪ h

yeh-ho-vaw'

From H1961; (the) *self Existent* or eternal; *Jehovah*, Jewish national name of God: - Jehovah, the Lord. Compare H3050, H3069.

New:

cha º da º sh

khaw-dawsh'

From H2318; *new*: - fresh, new thing.

Sing as you go?

As you go, Sing a fresh, new thing to the Self Existent One.

Psa 96:2 Sing⁷⁸⁹¹ unto the LORD, ³⁰⁶⁸ **ble¹²⁸⁸ss** his name; ⁸⁰³⁴ **(Proclaim) show**
forth¹³¹⁹ his **salvation**³⁴⁴¹ from day^{4480, 3117} to day.³¹¹⁷

Bless: Posture of adoration. KL

ba º rak

baw-rak'

A primitive root; to *kneel*; by implication to *bless* God (as an act of **adoration**).

Adoration in your heart. Posture of Adoration (An attitude of excessive attachment.)

Proclaim (show forth):

ba º s º ar

baw-sar'

A primitive root; properly to *be fresh*, that is, *full (rosy, figuratively cheerful)*; to *announce* (glad news): - messenger, preach, publish, shew forth, (bear, bring, carry, preach, good, tell good) tidings.

As you go, Sing a fresh new thing to the Self Existent One with adoration in your heart. Deliver this fresh new song with gladness, with freshness, being assured in your heart that you carry "Good News".

Salvation:

y^oshu º ' a º h

yesh-oo'-aw

Feminine passive participle of H3467; something *saved*, that is, (abstractly) **deliverance; aid, victory, prosperity**: - deliverance, **health**, welfare.

As you go, Sing a fresh new thing to the Self Existent One with adoration in your heart. Deliver this fresh new song with gladness, with freshness being assured in your heart that you carry "Good News". Gladly announce (preach or publish) the Good News of His promised Deliverance, Aid, Victory, Health and Prosperity from day to day (each and every day)..

The attitude with which you announce His Salvation is important.

We must insure that our attitude, our posture and our demeanor reflect the joy and assurance (not arrogance) that His Salvation inspires.

Psa 96:3 **Declare** his **glory** among the heathen, his **wonders** among all people.

Declare: Enumerate, Record, Tally

sa ¨ phar

saw-far'

A primitive root; properly to *score* with a mark as a tally or record, that is, (by implication) to *inscribe*, and also to **enumerate**; intensively to **recount**, that is, **celebrate**.

As you go, Sing a fresh new thing to the Self Existent One with adoration in your heart. Deliver this fresh new song with gladness, with freshness, being assured in your heart that you carry "Good News". Gladly announce the Good News of His promised Deliverance, Aid, Victory, Health and Prosperity each and every day.

Practice tallying, enumerating, listing, recounting and celebrating Who He Is and What He has Done and Will Do!

Glory:

ka ¨ bo ¨ d ka ¨ bo ¨ d

kaw-bode', kaw-bode'

From H3513; properly **weight**; but only figuratively in a good sense, *splendor* or **copiousness**: - glorious (-ly), glory, honour (-able). God is openhanded, not stingy or miserly, but He is generous toward us. KL

Essential Nature and Reputation. KL

Wonders:

pa ¨ la ¨ '

paw-law'

A primitive root; properly perhaps to *separate*, that is, **distinguish** by implication; *great*, *difficult*, **wonderful**: - accomplish, hard, hidden, **things too high**, marvelous, **miracles**, perform, separate, make singular, wonderful, **wondrous**.

As you go, Sing a fresh new thing to the Self Existent One with adoration in your heart. Deliver this fresh new song with gladness, with freshness being assured in your heart that you carry "Good News". Gladly announce the Good News of His promised Deliverance, Aid, Victory, Health and Prosperity each and every day.

Practice tallying, enumerating, listing, recounting and celebrating Who He Is and What He has Done and Will Do!

Through recounting (telling the story) and celebrating His achievements, we declare His essential nature and reputation. As well, we specifically address and endorse the reliability of His promises and declare that our hope is well placed in Him!

Psa 96:4 For the LORD is **great**, and **greatly** to be **praised**:

Great:

From H1431; *great* (in any sense); hence **older**; elder, exceeding, far, great, **high**, long, loud, mighty, **noble**.

Greatly:

From the same as H181; properly *vehemence*, that is, (with or without preposition) **vehemently**; by implication **wholly, speedily**, etc. (often with other words as an intensive or superlative; especially when repeated): - **diligently**, especially, exceeding (-ly), far, **fast**, good, great (-ly), X **louder and louder, might** (-ily, -y), (so) much, quickly, (so) sore, utterly, very (+ much, sore), well. (Immediately with great intensity! KL)

Praised:

ha ▪ lal

haw-lal'

A primitive root; to **be clear** (originally of sound, but usually of color); **to shine**; hence to **make a show; to boast**, and thus **to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave**; causatively to *celebrate*; also to *stultify*: - (make) boast (self), **celebrate, commend**, (deal, make), fool (-ish, -ly), glory, give [light], be (make, feign self) mad (against), give in marriage, [**sing, be worthy of**] **praise, rage, renowned, shine**.

As you go, Sing a fresh new thing to the Self Existent One with adoration in your heart. Deliver this fresh new song with gladness, with freshness being assured in your heart that you carry "Good News". Gladly announce the Good News of His promised Deliverance, Aid, Victory, Health and Prosperity each and every day.

Practice tallying, enumerating, listing, recounting and celebrating Who He Is and What He has Done and Will Do!

Through recounting (telling the story) and celebrating His achievements, we declare His essential nature and reputation. As well, we specifically address and endorse the reliability of His promises and declare that our hope is well placed in Him! In other words, when we remember, record and celebrate His achievements, our faith in His help begins to rise for every circumstance and hope for the change that He is working in us and for us begins to flourish.

With the greatest alacrity we celebrate and declare loudly, without reservation, the excellence, perfection and wonder of our God.

Biblical Injunction to support P/W through skillful (corporate worship) vocal and instrumental music:

Psa 33:3 Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

The primary function of music in the corporate gathering is to provide a vehicle on which this kind of praise and this kind of worship may ride. To me at least, this is all the more reason for musicians to be prepared to "assist" the congregation in their efforts to participate in corporate Praise and Worship.

A Side Note:

It's interesting to note that Asaph, one of the reknowned percussionists and worship leaders of the OT, and a commander in King David's army, his name means to "gather together".

What is the primary purpose that percussion provides for rhythm sections (bands) today.

Almost all performance of popular music (any genre) today relies on percussion to "gather the music and the people together". We musicians refer to this "gathering together as the groove, the pocket or making it Right, Tight and Sweet. Really good drummers are first "walking, talking metronomes. This quality is no accident. It takes discipline to bring such talent under control. Such discipline makes demands on the talent that will serve many. (Randy Bass, Carl Albrecht).

Earliest Reference to Instrumental Music: Gen 4:21 And his brother's name *was* Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle (Manipulate) the harp (Literally Twang) and organ (Breath Instrument).

Jubal was of Cain's off-spring. The implications of his fathering the "gifted" may point to the necessity of the Spirit's purifying touch on our "giftings".

SKILLFULL MUSICIANSHIP

Psa 33:3 Sing^{H7891} unto him a new^{H2319} song;^{H7892} play^{H5059} skilfully^{H3190} with a loud noise.^{H8643}

More on "Skilful Musicianship" tomorrow if you're interested.

Instrumental Music:

KINNOR, (David's Harp) used as an instrument to Express Worship:

God seems to enjoy stringed music. At least this idea seems to resonate with the psalmist, as we will read.

Job 30:31 My harp³⁶⁵⁸ also is¹⁹⁶¹ turned to mourning,⁶⁰ and my organ⁵⁷⁴⁸ into the voice⁶⁹⁶³ of them that weep.¹⁰⁵⁸

Psa 33:2 Praise³⁰³⁴ the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ with harp³⁶⁵⁸ sing²¹⁶⁷ unto him with the psaltery⁵⁰³⁵ and an instrument of ten strings.⁶²¹⁸

Psa 43:4 Then will I go⁹³⁵ unto⁴¹³ the altar⁴¹⁹⁶ of God,⁴³⁰ unto⁴¹³ God⁴¹⁰ my exceeding⁸⁰⁵⁷ joy:¹⁵²⁴ yea, upon the harp³⁶⁵⁸ will I praise³⁰³⁴ thee, O God⁴³⁰ my God.⁴³⁰

Psa 49:4 I will incline⁵¹⁸⁶ mine ear²⁴¹ to a parable:⁴⁹¹² I will open⁶⁶⁰⁵ my dark saying (puzzles, maxims, contemplation or meditation)²⁴²⁰ upon the harp³⁶⁵⁸.

Psa 57:8 Awake up,⁵⁷⁸² my glory;³⁵¹⁹ awake,⁵⁷⁸² psaltery⁵⁰³⁵(That which is prepared: implies preparation and Skill) and harp³⁶⁵⁸ I myself will awake (engage in accurate, lucid and proper perspectives)⁵⁷⁸² early.⁷⁸³⁷

ZAMAR

Psa 71:22 I⁵⁸⁹ will also¹⁵⁷¹ praise³⁰³⁴ thee with the psaltery,^{3627, 5035} (An instrument that is prepared.) even thy truth,⁵⁷¹ O my God:⁴³⁰ unto thee will I sing²¹⁶⁷ (Literally: To Strike With The Fingers) with the harp³⁶⁵⁸ (To Twang) O thou Holy One⁶⁹¹⁸ of Israel.³⁴⁷⁸

Psa 147:7 Sing⁶⁰³⁰ unto the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ with thanksgiving;⁸⁴²⁶ sing praise²¹⁶⁷ (Strike with the fingers) upon the harp³⁶⁵⁸ (To Twang) unto our God:⁴³⁰

Instrumental/Vocal Music:

In the mind of the psalmist, using instrumental music to both accompany and express God's attributes and accomplishments seem to go hand in hand. Instruments have been an acceptable part of biblical worship from time before time. We must ask our Lord to purify the hearts, the voices and the hands of our craft. As worshipers we look to the One we worship to teach us to produce acceptable worship.

The Holy Spirit is a singing Spirit. He loves vocal music. He particularly loves vocal lyrics that are concerned with remembering, recounting and celebrating who He is and what He has done and what He will do.

The overriding idea from our initial study is that praise should permeate our lives and drench the corporate atmosphere in which we linger.

Let's become those who pray playing or play praying, those who carry the presence of God on our journey through the earth in the praises of our lips and the praying in our playing,

that wherever we go, the atmosphere of the kingdom is extended to the honor and Glory of our Lord !

He is worthy...He is worthy of:

1. Unreserved Gratitude
2. Unqualified Obedience
3. Unconditional Worship