

BEAUTY AND WORSHIP

Phil 4:8-9 | June 18, 2023. | Riverwood Bible Church

INTRODUCTION

- Our response to the things that _____ us is an act of worship. These acts of worship can take many forms. Our worshipful response gives God the _____ He is rightly due and in the process we experience _____ fellowship with God through Christ.

Philippians 4:8-9 – *8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

I: WHAT IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP?

Scripture References

- I Kings 8:27
- John 12:3
- II Samuel 11:2-4
- Deuteronomy 6:10-11
- I Samuel 16:7
- I Peter 3:3-4

“We think to determine three things: whether something is true, whether something should be done, and whether something commands our appreciation. In other words, we think to know truth, goodness, and beauty.” – Andrew Kern

- When we encounter things, we analyze them to determine their _____. Truth, Goodness, and Beauty are _____ through which we can look to determine whether or not the thing is of _____, whether it is _____, whether it deserves our _____ of God.

“By encountering Truth, the human intellect is awakened to the infinite wisdom of God revealed in Christ; by encountering Goodness, the human volition is directed to act in accordance with the divine purposefulness of creation and our own created nature renewed in Christ; and by encountering Beauty, the human soul is awakened to the inexhaustible wellspring of diving love revealed in Christ. In short, the Christian vision of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty is an invitation, a divine call, to awaken the fullness of our humanity as the entire cosmos is incorporated into the transformative life, death, and resurrection of Christ.”
--Steve Turley

“Since beauty is the child of the marriage between goodness and truth, and since babies always in some ways resemble both parents, therefore both truth and goodness are always beautiful (intrinsically, in themselves, necessarily and universally), and therefore beauty always can lead us back to both truth and goodness.” – Peter Kreeft

- Aesthetic beauty cannot _____ the presence of God. Though it still has the capacity to move us, we are even more moved by the reality that God _____ Beauty, and what we see now pales in comparison to what awaits us in Heaven when we see God in His full _____.

“Any patch of sunlight in a wood will show you something about the sun which you could never get from reading books on astronomy. These pure and spontaneous pleasures are ‘patches of Godlight’ in the woods of our experience.” –CS Lewis

- Aesthetic beauty, _____ of Truth and Goodness, is not for us to respond to. But when wrapped in truth and goodness, beauty is designed to give us _____, and we should respond in worship towards God.
- Outward beauty contains a level of subjectivity, or _____. Inward beauty is so full of _____, it remains mostly objective.
- Paul’s list in Philippians 4:8 summarizes things that are true, good, and beautiful. When we train ourselves to _____ these things, we are driven to more fully _____ the One who provides them all.

II: HOW DO WE WORSHIP?

Philippians 4:8-9 – ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned^l and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Scripture References

- Ephesians 5:19-21
- Revelation 4 & 5
- Genesis 22:1-12
- II Samuel 6:12-15
- “..._____ about these things.” *Logizomai* – to consider, take account, to weigh upon, esteem value.
- “..._____ these things,” *prassete* – to do, make, perform in general, expressing an action as continued or not yet completed.

“Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of his worth. This cannot be done by mere acts of duty. It can be done only when spontaneous affections arise in the heart.” -John Piper

- _____ worship can include a level of preference.
- _____ worship should aim to minimize preference and unify us around the things we are called to do together each Sunday.

“I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. -CS Lewis

III: WHY WE WORSHIP

The Scotch catechism says that man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.’ But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.” CS Lewis

- We worship for the glory of God and joy of _____ with Him. God gets the glory, we are blessed, and it is beautiful when done in truth and goodness.

IV. SUMMARY

“The Christian tradition (notably expressed by Augustine and Aquinas) asserts that truth, goodness, and beauty are divine attributes by which the whole of creation is endowed with meaning and purpose, and focused particularly in microcosmic form in the distinctly human manifestation of the image of God... and that all that is true, beautiful, and good finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.” --Steve Turley

- The _____ is a manifestation of all things True, Good, and Beautiful. Notice, see, and recognize the beauty, wrapped in truth and goodness, of Christ’s sacrifice for us. And _____ in worship.

IV. RESPONSE

Corporate Singing

- *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*
- *Yet Not I But Christ in Me*

Reading of Scripture

- Ephesians 1:3 – 3:20