

God's Blessings – Our Worship

2015 Mark Beard

Text: Psalm 67

Introduction

Many years ago, A. W. Tozer wrote, "What is worship? Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Are in Heaven." A.W. Tozer, quoted in D.J. Fant, A.W. Tozer, Christian Publications, 1964, p. 90.

My, how things have changed in our society, The wife of one mega church pastor had this to say about worship, "I just want to encourage every one of us to realize when we obey God, we're not doing it for God—I mean, that's one way to look at it—we're doing it for ourselves, because God takes pleasure when we're happy. That's the thing that gives Him the greatest joy. So, I want you to know this morning: Just do good for your own self. Do good because God wants you to be happy. When you come to church, when you worship Him, you're not doing it for God really. You're doing it for yourself, because that's what makes God happy. Amen?"

Today, I want us to consider the **realities** of God's blessings and our worship.

I. There is a Purpose to God's Blessings (vv.1-2).

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us— ² so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

- a. **We should seek God's blessings with a purpose greater than ourselves.**
- b. **We should realize we are blessed to be a blessing not because we are special.**

"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the

LORD.”

Paul the apostle reminds us in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

II. **There is an Intended Result to God's Blessings (vv.3-7).**

³ May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. 4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. 5 May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. 7 May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

a. **The only proper response to the blessings of God is praise.**

In his book *The One-Minute Manager*, Kenneth Blanchard recommends developing the practice of "one-minute praising," where the manager (or parent, spouse, etc.) tries to "catch someone doing something right" and then spend a full 60 seconds praising that person for the good deed.

This is a lot more difficult than it appears. Where we might not find it difficult to criticize someone for 60 minutes, many times we find it almost impossible to praise someone sincerely for a full minute. This is true for the church, as well. It seems that it can be hard for some people to praise God. Even in our prayer time, we can list off the prayer needs; but I think we find it difficult to come up with praises. The more we praise God for everything He has given to us, the less we will criticize others. The more we praise Him in the church, the more we will see His hand and Spirit moving through the church. (*Turning Point Daily Devotional*)

b. **The natural response of our praise for His blessings is that people will know and reverence Him.**

Praise for God is a natural draw for those who do not know him. What is your method for helping others to know Him?

In the Peanuts comic strip Sally says to Linus, "I think I would be a good evangelist."

"Why?" asks Linus.

Sally answers, "I convinced the boy who sits behind me at school that my religion is better than his."

"How did you do that?" asks Linus.

Sally answers, "I hit him over the head with my lunch box.."

There are likely better methods you and I can use to share our faith!

-Robert Shannon, Preaching January/February 1998

Conclusion

To worship God is to recognize his worth or worthiness; to look God-ward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the value of what we see. The Bible calls this activity "glorifying God" or "giving glory to God," and views it as the ultimate end, and from one point of view, the whole duty of man (Ps. 29:2; 96:6; 1 Cor. 10:31).

Scripture views the glorifying of God as a sixfold activity: praising God for all that he is and all his achievements; thanking him for his gifts and his goodness to us; asking him to meet our own and others' needs; offering him our gifts, our service, and ourselves; learning of him from his word, read and preached, and obeying his voice; telling others of his worth, both by public confession and testimony to what he has done for us. Thus we might say that the basic formulas of worship are these: "Lord, you are wonderful"; "Thank you, Lord"; "Please Lord"; "Take this, Lord"; "Yes, Lord"; "Listen everybody!"

This then is worship in its largest sense: petition as well as praise, preaching as well as prayer, hearing as well as speaking, actions as well as words, obeying as well as offering, loving people as well as loving God. However, the primary acts of worship are those which focus on God directly -- and we must not imagine that work for God in the world is a substitute for direct fellowship with him in praise and prayer and devotion.

[James Packer, Your Father Loves You, Harold Shaw Publishers, July 1986, P. 15.](#)