

Introduction and Background

- I. Background: why we worship God.
 - A. We are created to worship him.
Psalm 8; Psalm 100
 - B. Worship reveals and reflects God's glory.
Psalm 26:8 *O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.*
Psalm 29:1 *Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.*
Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #1.
 - C. Worship expresses our thanks.
 1. Thanks on the Lord's Day.
Psalm 92:1-2
 2. Thanks for who he is.
Psalm 97:11-12
 3. Thanks for salvation.
Psalm 30
 4. Eternal thanks.
Revelation 11:16-17
- II. Worship is in the Name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - A. Right from the beginning.
We begin our Christian life of worship through Baptism in Christ's name, Acts 2:38-39.
 - B. All the way to the end.
1 Corinthians 15:55-57.
 - C. And in all circumstances.
Colossians 3:17
 - D. The collective worship of the people of God, the Body of Christ, is especially commanded by God.
 1. As priest, Christ represents and intercedes for a people.
Hebrews 9:24 *For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.*
Hebrews 10:19-25
Hebrews 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name*
 2. He has commanded us to collectively engage in his worship and to bring others along..
1 Corinthians 11:24-25.; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42

III. Worship and the Reformation.

Material from a lecture by W. Robert Godfrey of Westminster Seminary, California.

A. John 4:13-26.

The hope of salvation presented.

1. The moral question, the woman's life.
2. The theological question, about worship.
 - a. theology is fundamental to holy living
3. John 4:21-24 shows the connection between worship and church growth.
 - a. God is seeking...
 - b. The Church is seeking worshipers (the lost, the needy, the thirsty).
 - c. The goal of evangelism: to produce true worshipers.
4. The most important thing we do as a church...
 - a. Deut 4:24 & Heb 12:29
 - b. Sincerity, zeal, according to God's Word
 - c. Spirit and truth

B. The goal of the Reformation

John Calvin (1544) *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*, what the reformation is all about

1. "secondly, a knowledge of the source from which salvation is to be obtained" Restores our relationship with God, therefore...
2. "firstly, the knowledge of the mode in which God is duly worshiped." Meeting with God, meeting with his people.

C. Medieval worship

1. Architecture: mystery, power, grandeur; visual: to give a sense of who God is.
2. Priest, tabernacle, consecrated host [Latin for "victim"], sacrifice, sanctuary. The "victim" brought to the High Altar.
3. Little verbal action (Latin) (some vernacular sermons)
4. Hoc est corpus meum (hocus pocus) magic words
A religion of spectacle, of experience, drama.

D. Reformation of worship [16th Century]

1. Language of the people vs. "holy languages" (Latin, Old Church Slavonic, Koiné Greek)
2. Ministers trained to study the Bible & teach it
3. Preaching of the Word central place
4. Architecture changes, hearing becomes important
5. Martin Luther, preaching of Christ central (Law & Gospel)
 - a. worship is primarily what God gives to us
 - b. vs. medieval giving to God a sacrifice to propitiate the Father. (1John 4:10).

- c. Worship is about how God comes graciously to us in Jesus Christ to meet, bless, forgive, renew us.

E. Calvin's insight into worship vs. Luther's

1. Luther: hearing the gospel, responding by faith.
2. Calvin: hearing of the gospel, responding by faith, external circumstances.
Because
 - a. nature of God = "jealous" for his worship, therefore circumstance of worship are important
 - b. nature of man = idolatrous nature, creativity
 - c. Calvin's test: the more it pleases you, the more suspicious you ought to be of it.
 - d. Our nature is such that forms of worship may appear
 - (1) pleasing to us, not to God
 - (2) spiritual to us, not directed by the Spirit
 - (3) sanctifying, but are in fact indulgent of our sensuous nature.
3. Two kinds of idolatry
 - a. First commandment idolatry.
Canaanite practices: false gods, demonic worship.
 - b. Second commandment idolatry.
Jeroboam's Israel: the true God worshiped falsely.
4. Reformed worship: back to God in our worship by His Word
 - a. Reading, preaching, singing, seeing the Word in the Lord's Supper, the Word filling the phrases of our prayers
 - b. Word centered theology yields a word centered worship.

F. Later deformation of Reformed worship in Evangelicalism.

From Presbyterian Camp Meetings for Communion, to something else...

"Worship in American churches, and increasingly in other countries, has been greatly influenced by the practices of American evangelicalism which grew out of the 19th century camp meeting.... Second, dispensational theology has conditioned many Christians, even those who reject dispensationalism as a system, to approach ethics, doctrine, and worship by asking only what the New Testament teaches. ... Third, we must bear in mind the constant effort of our unseen enemy to distort and corrupt the worship of God in order to obscure his glory and the only way of salvation through Jesus Christ (Matt 4:9; Eph 6:11-12; Jas 4:7)." *The Worship of the Church*, Introduction.