

“Christ Fellowship: A Worshiping and Witnessing Community”
Part 1: Why We Worship
 Ephesians 1:3-14

The Fuel for Worship at Christ Fellowship Church

- We worship because the Father chose us as His sons and daughters. (vv. 4-6)
 - The reality of election...(v. 4a)

The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

- The function of election...(vv. 4b-6)
 - To show through us His divine power for holiness.
 - To strip us of any pride or ground for boasting.

One weeknight when I was sitting in the house of God, I was not thinking much about the preacher's sermon, for I did not believe it. The thought struck me, "How did you come to be a Christian?" I sought the Lord. "But how did you come to seek the Lord?" The truth flashed across my mind in a moment—I should not have sought him unless there had been some previous influence in my mind to make me seek him. I prayed, thought I, but then I asked myself, How came I to pray? I was induced to pray by reading the Scriptures. How came I to read the Scriptures? I did read them, but what led me to do so? Then, in a moment, I saw that God was at the bottom of it all, and that he was the Author of my faith, and so the whole doctrine of grace opened up to me, and from that doctrine I have not departed to this day, and I desire to make this my constant confession, "I ascribe my change wholly to God." (Spurgeon)

- We worship because the Son redeemed us by His very own blood. (vv. 7-10)
 - God has addressed the great need of our souls... (v. 7)
 - By removing our great blindness in our eyes. (vv. 8-10)

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God...⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6)

- We worship because the Spirit is keeping us by His infinite power. (vv. 11-14)
 - We have an inheritance in God...(vv. 11-12)

God is a suitable reward. The soul, being spiritual, must have something comparable and suitable to make it happy—and that is God. Light is no more suitable to the eye, nor melody to the ear—than God is to the soul. He pours spiritual blessings into the soul. He enriches it with grace, feasts it with His love, and crowns it with heavenly dignity! (Thomas Watson)

- And what God promises, God will surely do. (vv. 13-14)

The Priority of Worship at Christ Fellowship Church

- If worship is our mission, then our goals must be different.
- If worship is our mission, then our expectations must be adjusted.
- If worship is our mission, then the gospel must be essential.

I should think myself in the way of my duty, to raise the affections of my hearers as high as I possibly can, provided they are affected with nothing but truth. (Jonathan Edwards)

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. (Revelation 7:13-15)