



Rhythm OF WORSHIP

A W O R S H I P L E A D E R ' S

Weekly Devotional

Monday Sept. 30 - Sunday Oct. 6, 2019

The Body of Jesus

Theme for Sunday

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 3:10-11

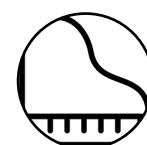
"O, that there might be more people among us whose manner of life mirrors something mysterious and wonderful and whose words have a cosmic significance.

Jesus was like that. You could not be around him long until you felt: "There is something peculiar about this man; I've never heard anybody speak like this man." He had the aroma of God about him. Every part of his life was part of a cosmic plan, and he knew it, and it made him earnest. And the great apostle Paul was like this, too, as we see him here in this text. He saw his own little ministry as part of a cosmic plan, and it filled him with seriousness and passion. And I pray that God will open our eyes today so that we can see that all of us believers, each with his peculiar gift, are part of a cosmic mission given to the church by the Creator."

(excerpt from the sermon titled, "The Cosmic Church" by John Piper, 1981)

Reflections

- * What do I need to repent of this week?
- * What feels too heavy to carry this week?
- * Does my life look different from my neighbors? Not because I attend church, or perhaps work for a Christian organization. But do my mannerisms, my kindness, my interactions...do these things look different? Does my hope look different?
- * Who can I pray for specifically, to receive Christ?
- * This Sunday, I'm expecting God to...



Prayer

MY FATHER,

In a world of created changeable things,
Christ and his Word alone remain unshaken.

O to forsake all creatures,
to rest as a stone on him the foundation,
to abide in him, be borne up by him!
For all my mercies come through Christ,
who has designed, purchased, promised, effected them.

How sweet it is to be near him, the Lamb filled with holy affections!
When I sin against thee I cross thy will, love, life,
and have no comforter, no creature, to go to.
My sin is not so much this or that particular evil,
but my continual separation, disunion, distance from thee,
and having a loose spirit towards thee.
But thou hast given me a present, Jesus thy Son,
as Mediator between thyself and my soul,
as middle-man who in a pit holds both him below and him above,
for only he can span the chasm breached by sin, and satisfy divine justice.

May I always lay hold upon this Mediator, as a realized object of faith,
and alone worthy by his love to bridge the gulf.

Let me know that he is dear to me by his Word;
I am one with him by the Word on his part, and by faith on mine;

If I oppose the Word I oppose my Lord when he is most near;

If I receive the Word I receive my Lord wherein he is nigh.

O thou who hast the hearts of all men in thine hand,
form my heart according to the Word,
according to the image of thy Son,
So shall Christ the Word, and his Word,
be my strength and comfort.

taken from "The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions"

SONGS AND ART

1. WHO YOU SAY I AM

"I am chosen" (lyrics)

2. HEAL OUR LAND

"speak through Your word" (lyrics)

3. I'M LISTENING

"quiet my heart I'm listening" (lyrics)

4. DO IT AGAIN

"Your Word will come to pass" (lyrics)



Oil painting on canvas by Melani Pyke

