

TOTAL GRACE: "Join the Song Part 1"

INTRODUCTION: "Singing Grace!"

- Where you find Christians, you will also find singing!
Psalm 34:3, 118:14

"Grace is too amazing just to talk about it. We sing about grace. We sing because of grace."

". . . all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise. . . The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about. . . I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation." (C.S. Lewis)

- ✓ The context of Colossians 3:16 is the conduct of the new man.
 - **Put off old vices** (v.5-11)
 - **Put on new virtues** (v.12-17)

"If there's no change, there's something strange."

SINGING AND THE SCRIPTURES (Colossians 3:16)

- ✓ **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,"** – a reference to the whole of the Bible.
 - **"The Bible is a HIM – book. It is all about Jesus Christ."**
Luke 24:25; Jn 5:39; 2 Tim 3:15
 - **Dwell** – means to "take up residence", "be hospitable to", "receiving someone warmly into your house."
1 Thess 1:6, 2:13
 - **Dwell in you (plural)** – speaking of the corporate gathering of the church.
 - A call to **listen attentively** to gifted teachers and preachers in the church.
Acts 6:4, 10:33, 1 Tim 3:2, 4:13, 5:17

"Preaching God's Word was not an intrusion into the worship service. It is an indispensable part of it."

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- ✓ **The discipline of expository listening:** the richness of a worship service depends on how well you *listen to the Word of God*.
 - **Prizing** – desiring the Scriptures "more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12)
 - **Prioritizing** – organizing our lives to make hearing the Word a priority (Luke 10:41-42)
 - **Purging** – preparing your heart by repentance of known sin (James 1:21)
 - **Pondering** – meditating on the Word that was taught (Ps 119:93, 97)
 - **Praying** – for both the preacher and for our own hearts.
 - **Presenting** – oneself to the LORD to obey what He has commanded.

"The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation." (D.L. Moody)

Shepherd Group Study Questions

November 11, 2018

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip opened his sermon by saying "Where you find Christians, you will also find singing!" What do you think about this statement? What are some of your favorite praise songs or hymns?

2

One of the main points of the sermon is that **hearing the Scriptures corporately is one of the ways that we worship God**. How does this change the way that we view our times of corporate worship? How would our church culture change if we each put this truth into practice?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

The New Testament speaks about the many ways that the believer should relate to God's Word. How do the following passages encourage us in our study of Scripture? What are some ways that our lives should change in light of these truths?

James 1:21-25 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

1 Peter 2:1-3 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Psalms 119:97-104 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Why is **spiritual preparation** so important for the profitable hearing of God's Word? What happens when this preparation is neglected?

Is it possible to be a **regular hearer** of God's Word and still remain unchanged? What are the characteristics of someone who listens to God's Word with spiritual profit?

2 Read **Nehemiah 8:1-8**. This passage describes a corporate gathering of the people of Israel where the Word of God was read and explained.

How was the **Word of God** handled in this corporate assembly?

What was the **response of the people** to the ministry of God's Word?

What are **some ways** that this passage would be instructive to our handling of God's Word?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 Looking back at the sermon, are there any goals you'd like to work on in the next few days/weeks that could help you grow in the two areas below?

➤ *My individual reading and study of God's Word:*

➤ *My participation in corporate worship:*

2 Pastor Philip listed several areas of practical applications in becoming "expository listeners". Choose **one area** and write out a specific way that you would like to put this into practice in your life:

ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS

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