



Lord's Day Worship || March 22, 2020

Psalm 42:1-2 "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"

Psalm 84:1-2 "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God."

In Psalm 42, the psalmist describes being banned from gathering with the saints for some unknown reason and he pours out his heart for return to the Lord at Zion with his people. To the Jewish mind, to watch worship from afar and not be able to come, would have been isolating, agonizing, and depressing! He longed to be in the courts of God.

To minimize your longing for the courts of God during this unusual season and to keep seeing Christ fully formed in you (Galatians 4:19) we are providing you with video teachings from our sermon series in 2 Corinthians: God of Weakness. Exceptional moments like this do require exceptional (and temporary) actions.

This unique season will give us something to earnestly pray about, namely, the freedom and desire to return as a real people, in body and soul, to the worship of God - together. That longing is healthy and beneficial for the saints, promoting the creation of what Jesus designated as true worshipers of God who worship in spirit and in truth.

I sincerely hope that during our time apart from one another that God would stir in you a longing to be back with God's people.

With much love and affection,

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“What Happens When You Give” - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Watch the teaching video from Pastor Paul before you begin.

Here's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMH1wOLwfQUI6Xydt0HQP_Q/

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Paul laid out two guidelines for giving. They were 1) Give Generously and 2) Give Cheerfully. Which one is most difficult for you? Why? How can you take intentional steps in moving towards giving generously and cheerfully?
2. Pastor Paul shared that Randy Alcorn wrote:

I have found that cheerful givers love God and love him more deeply each time they give. To me, one of the few experiences comparable to the joy of leading someone to Christ is the joy of making wise and generous choices with my money and possessions. Both are supreme acts of worship. Both are exhilarating. Both are what we were made for.

Have you discovered this? If you have, share how you have experienced this exhilarating grace. If not, what needs to change in your heart, your life, your giving?

3. God doesn't want you to give out of guilt or pressure. How should we give then? What would that look or feel like for you?
4. Pastor Paul also mentioned that there are two benefits to giving. They were: 1) God will give you what you need to continue to be generous (9:8-11) and 2) God will use your gifts to bless others (9:12-15). Have you seen these at work when you give? Share examples.
5. Take a few minutes to read “Generosity in a Time of Hoarding” by Trevin Wax. He points out, “In a time of tumult and uncertainty, as the COVID-19 pandemic affects not only our physical welfare but also our economy and our social interactions, our tendency is to turn inward, to the safety and wellbeing of those closest to us.” How can we be intentionally generous during this time?

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/christians-as-givers-in-a-time-of-hoarding/>

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Resources on Generosity

- The Law of Rewards, by Randy Alcorn
- Managing God's Money by Randy Alcorn
- The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn
- Gospel Patrons by John Rinehart
- George Muller: Man of Faith by Basil Miller

Daily Family Devotion Time

Since many of us are hunkered down as family units, we are given a great opportunity to start new traditions, traditions that will help you grow spiritually. One practice that I would recommend is going through the catechisms (a “catechism” is a document designed for that training) of the Reformed and Presbyterian Church. These catechisms are: Westminster Shorter and Longer Catechism, and the Heidelberg Catechisms.

During these next few weeks, consider walking through the catechism together or on your own. Here are some links for you:

Westminster Standards

Being a part of the Presbyterian Church in America, we use the Westminster Standards (Confession of Faith and the Longer and Shorter Catechisms) to guide us. These Standards are considered secondary standards as the Bible itself is the only infallible rule of faith and practice). <https://www.pcaac.org/bco/westminster-confession/>

Heidelberg Catechism Curriculum for Families

This PDF will give you 54 units to use either for yourself or you children.
https://urclearning.org/wp-content/uploads/Heidelberg_for_Families.pdf

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