

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 47

WORSHIP

“I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.”

Psalm 145:1-3

- King David, who wrote the Psalm, calls God 'King'
- He wanted to praise God for ever
- David is worshipping by himself
- This praise included saying and realising how great God is
- In what ways is God great?

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory”

Ephesians 1:13,14

- Being a Christian is described as being 'included in Christ' - a close relationship
- As Christians we then have the Holy Spirit as a deposit 'guaranteeing inheritance'

- Redemption here is something that takes place in the future. That is one of the reasons why we should praise God's glory
- What is this redemption event?

"What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three - should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God."

1 Corinthians 14:26-28

- This passage appears to be a key passage for Christians as they worship publicly
- There are many parts to worship—and many people take part in the worship
- Worship does not appear to be a passive experience
- A purpose behind worshipping as a group is to strengthen the church
- The worship format Paul advised included speaking in tongues—but was done in a very orderly manner
- The orderly manner included taking turns and making sure that there was a translator
- If this could not be done people could still worship individually—but still to God

"But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

- Worship is not designed to exclude individuals
- People who are not Christian are to be welcomed—but with a view that they should be convicted of sin
- The judgement spoken of sounds as though it could be hurtful—but is meant to worship God
- Do we take seriously the idea that God is really among us? How do we do that?

"The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and

the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.

John 4:15-19

- The woman feels able to admit that she is a sinner. She has judged herself
- Jesus recognises this judgement
- The woman sees that Jesus is a prophet
- Does this link in well with the previous verse?
- How would we use worship to reach to non-Christians?