

Remnant Life Church  
March 2, 2025  
**Expressions of Worship**  
Acts 16:25-34

We have been examining the command, the responsibility, and the importance of worship

- Worship is honor and adoration directed at God
- Within that definition we recognize that worship is not confined to a particular day of the week or in a particular building
  - Worship should be an everyday occurrence in our life
  - It should be expressed in all of our words and in each of our actions
    - And for that to take place, it begins in our heart
    - Jesus said in **Matt 15:18** – ...*what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart*
- For worship to be acceptable to God, it must be done in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**)
  - Worship from the heart
  - Worship rooted in the truth of God's Word

With that established, what should worship look like?

- What are the expressions that are acceptable to God?
  - Again, we turn to the Scriptures
  - Are there only one or two?
  - Or are there are many ways to express our honor and adoration to God?
- There are many more than what a great number of churches are willing to embrace
  - (Growing up at Bethel Baptist)

Let's begin with God's simple instructions found in 2 letters written by Paul to the churches in Colossae and Ephesus

- **Eph 5:19** - ...*speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs*
- Let's quickly look at these three expressions of musical worship
  - Psalms
    - Paul encourages the use of the writings of David and others
    - The word "psalm" in TOL is *pahl-MAHS*
      - Translates to the striking of an instrument
      - And to do so with an accompaniment of spoken text
      - i.e - *The Chosen* – King David listening to the new psalm spoken to the humming of the choir
      - It was often presented as a prayer – the highest form of worship
      - They are also carried into the NT – over 100 times
    - David writes these words intended for them to be spoken
      - The word "speak" in TOL is *Lah-LAY-oh*
      - It is the present progressive tense, meaning it is not a singular activity but ongoing
      - It represents, again, worship that is a regular, continuing part of our life
      - IOW a lifestyle of worship

- The Psalms were written and preserved for us to utilize every day
      - David's experiences uniquely qualified him to pray and sing through virtually every emotion
      - Emotions that we experience every day and the Psalms each of them in a beautiful way of surrender, worship and praise
  - Hymns
    - *Hym-NAS* are sacred songs and because they involve the human voice, they allow for deep emotion to be present
      - For most Christians today, the word hymn means songs written from the late 17<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries
      - Names such as Charles Wesley, John Newton, and Isaac Watts come to mind
        - Hymns, however, have been a part of the expression of devotion to God since the time of David and even earlier
        - Paul is encouraging the reader to utilize the writings of the Psalms to be sung aloud to invite the emotion of the individual to participate
      - Emotion, however, is a two-edged sword when it comes to the expression of our worship in songs
        - God created us as emotional beings
        - But left unchecked, or more accurately when not focusing on God alone, it can easily become a tool of manipulation
        - When that happens, it is no longer being led by the spirit but by the flesh

Psalms, Hymns...

- Spiritual Songs
  - Paul is proclaiming that those who are Spirit-filled overflow with songs
    - They may be songs comprised of words written by others
    - They may be words used within the framework of a song
    - Or they may be songs with spontaneous lyrics
      - Words that are of great joy, worship, and praise
      - Words that flow from a heart that is filled with His presence
  - In whatever way a person vocally expresses their worship of God, Paul's primary point is that the one who allows themselves to be filled with the Spirit will demonstrate God's presence in some way of joyful expression
    - In Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs
    - And when focused on God alone, there is power in those activities because of His presence
    - Look at one example of the power of worshipping God in spirit and in truth

**READ - Acts 16:25-34**

- All this occurred through the power of spirit-filled worship
  - Regardless of the circumstances
  - Regardless of the environment
  - Not only were Paul and Silas miraculously set free
  - The jailer and his entire family received salvation
- What must be remembered is that all forms of these musical expressions receive their power from the Holy Spirit, not the ones writing, singing, or playing
  - This is where so many go off course
- Remember when I said the other week that all people worship?
  - The question is, who or what is being worshipped?
  - Many in the church become enamored with the performance or skill of the singers and musicians
  - When that happens, God is no longer the focus, God is not present, nor is He pleased
    - **Isa 42:8** - *I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols*
    - All good things come from God, and that includes the tools we use to give Him glory
- The expression of worship by singing is nowhere more prominent in all the Scripture than in the book of Psalms
  - The word “sing” is found 69 times within the NIV version and cover a wide range of worship topics
  - They include psalms of joy, praise, gladness, and gratitude for His great love among others
  - What is it that fills your heart with His presence?
    - We should be ready and willing to sing His praises
    - Both corporately and privately
- And Paul even addresses how we do that when we are all alone
  - **Eph 5:19c** – *making music in your hearts*
  - Paul is not speaking of the fist-sized organ in the left-center of your chest
    - The heart, in this case, is the place of the soul, the spirit, and the seat of our emotions
    - Paul’s word for heart (*Karr-DEE-ah*) can be used to identify the physiological meaning
    - But it is also so much more
      - It is the center and seat of spiritual life
      - The fountain of thoughts, passions, desires, affections, purposes, and endeavors
      - It is the place of the will and the character of the individual
      - The faculty and point of intelligence
    - It is any wonder why we must surrender our “hearts” to God in order for Him to be Lord of our lives
  - Just as the Psalmist used the word “sing” he also uses the words “my heart” 55 times as an expression of the place of worship