

Psalm 131
Private Worship I
In the Quiet

A worshipper's devotion ...

I. Desire-Driven

A. A Soul Set Free

B. A Heart for God

II. Disciplined

A. Duty

B. Daily

III. Directed

A. Essentials

B. Accessories

... echoed all day long.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does worship mean?
2. Why is it important for you to spend time alone with God?
3. What are some things you can do to worship God when you are alone with Him?
4. What will help you to keep God on your mind throughout the day – even though you are doing all kinds of different stuff?

From the Quiet to the Congregation

Today we begin a new series focusing on worship, the bulk of which will address the parts of corporate, or congregational worship. The passages I have selected will provide launching points for each topic we will consider, so it will be little different than the usual expository approach to which we are accustomed. That said, sound worship is so essential to proper Christian living that I will make sure each message is thoroughly Biblically informed.

Before we get into the more 'public' aspects of worship, we will begin with a couple more private matters, personal and household devotion. I believe this is the place to start because it has to do with the bigger picture of what the life of faith is about. If we are in Christ our entire life is, in a sense, worship. Since that is the case, it makes sense that each day should include some form of worshipful exercise on the part of believing individuals. The same should prove true for households under the Lordship of Christ. Single households will obviously be involved in primarily private worship, but in households with two or more there should be some semblance of communal devotion. But even the best homespun worship and devotion must never replace congregational worship – in fact private and corporate will enhance each other. At home or in church, worship is a matter of the heart, a heart with a desire to bring God the glory due His name. Genuine worship will exalt the LORD and will satisfy engaged souls. It is my prayer that this series will be used to promote both.

Note: The Bible is the sole authority on worship, it is more than just a primary source, it is to regulate what takes place in the liturgy, or order of service. There are many resources addressing the topic of Christian worship from many perspectives – while there are various interpretations and opinions in most – the good ones will strive to reflect Scripture neither adding to nor taking away from it. Choose well. For a little more 'in-house,' perspective (at least where I am coming from in general) I encourage you to read last month's Connection article, "Called to Worship." Relevant to today's message the article in the Mach connection emphasizes the importance of finding quiet time to be with the Lord. Both editions are available in the back.