

Pressing On; June 12, 2010

Ephesians 5:15 to 21

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best usage of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ**”* (emphasis mine)

Sunday when Denis read the Psalms, the introduction struck me with a renewed sense of the importance of worship; its need, its purpose, its structure. The 55th Psalm starts out with this...*“To the choirmaster with stringed instruments. A Maskil (musical term) of David”* (emphasis and interpretation mine). 61 percent of the psalms are set to music and are songs of praise and worship to the triune God.

The walk of believers should be one marked by a life of a heart committed to the praise and worship of the Triune God. The Apostle Paul emphasizes this in his letter to the church at Ephesus

1. Worship is corporate
 - a. Paul instructs us to “address one another”. Praise and worship is for the encouragement and edification of the whole body of Christ.
2. Worship is a song from the heart.
 - a. Paul says we are to make melody to the Lord
 - i. The word “melody” is literally *twang*, referring to playing or strumming of an instrument. A song sang to God.
3. The Old Testament is relevant to the church
 - a. He instructs us to sing Psalms. Inspired OT writings that describe the nature of God, the plan and purpose of redemption, Jesus, the Trinity’ etc. The OT points us to Christ and the cross, makes the focus Christ Alone for the Glory of God Alone.
4. Worship is deeply Theological in its nature.
 - a. Paul instructs us to address one another with psalms. This is where I want to spend just a little time unpacking Paul’s instruction to the church. Psalms are deeply and wonderfully Theological. They are rich and deep and vast in matters concerning the nature, thoughts, actions and attributes of God. They express fear and awe and reverence and amazement toward our Creator. They simply are not shallow chorus of repeated words sang to stir up emotions in emotionless creatures. They are deep theological thoughts set to music to remind us of the vastness of God, the huge gulf

between a self existing, holy being and the creatures he created. They direct us to see Him correctly as the one who directs His creation to the full purpose of His will for the praise of His glorious grace.

b. A Few Examples

- i.** Psalm 34 – Sovereign Grace, redemption
- ii.** Psalm 147 – Providential Love and Grace
- iii.** Psalm 33- His Foreknowledge and Election