

The Discipline of Corporate Worship (Or the Discipline of Going to Church)

The Psalms of Ascents (Psalms 120-134)

Paul Goebel

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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Psalm 120:5 Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

⁶ Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

Psalm 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" ² Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! ³ Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

Psalm 130:1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! ² O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! ³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. ⁷ Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Psalm 132:8 Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. ⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy. ¹⁰ For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! ² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Psalm 134:1 Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! ² Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD! ³ May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth.

Table Discussion Questions:

1. Does corporate worship play a central role in your life? Why or why not?
2. Why is it called a worship “service”? How does this shape our motivation and our posture in corporate worship?
3. What are the elements of a worship service? Is it more than songs and a sermon?
4. Why is it important that we confess our sins both publicly and privately? How has corporate confession impacted your own personal life in Christ?
5. Is it possible to worship God without community? What would happen if Christian worship was practiced only in isolation?
6. How does our gathered worship on Sundays influence our scattered lives as Christians throughout the week?
7. Is it possible to experience the fullness of Christianity apart from corporate worship? Why or why not?