

November 13, 2011

The Value of Ancient/Future Worship (Part 1)

Sermon Transcript

This is a transcript of the first part of Pastor Mike's sermon. The second part of the sermon was recorded and can be heard at www.thefoothills.us.

This is our new mission statement as a church: *Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally, and globally.*

Over the past several weeks, I've been revealing to you the values that we as leaders have determined will help us accomplish this mission. So far I've revealed eight of them to you. They are...

JESUS CHRIST, THE HEAD

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

EVERYONE A MINISTER

HOSPITALITY WITHOUT EXCEPTION

UNITY IN COMMUNITY

INTENTIONAL FAMILIES

GLOBAL MISSIONS (EMPHASIS ON UNREACHED PEOPLE)

HOLISTIC DISCIPLESHIP

Today, I will reveal the ninth and final value. If you look at this list, you see that one key component of our mission is missing: worship. Worship is what we are called to do by God. He calls us to be worshipers. To worship is *to show reverence or adoration for someone or something.*

Last week, I told you that all of us worship something or someone. In the book, [Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us](#), the author says this:

Worship is a word most often associated with religion. But worship can be found in the lives of secularists, agnostics, and even atheists. The simple truth is that everyone looks to something or someone to give their lives meaning. Worship reveals the somethings or someones we value most. What we love and adore and focus on forms us into the people we become.

The cultural current is strong, and if we're not actively striving to worship the Lord, we will find ourselves worshipping those things our culture worships like self, possessions, comfort, advancement, status, etc. We must fight the cultural current by disciplining ourselves to worship the Lord – which will take the formation of new habits.

So, our ninth and final core value is worship – but not just worship...**ancient/future worship.**

Ancient/future worship is the adoring and revering of God by remembering God's work in the past, anticipating God's rule over all creation at the culmination of His kingdom, and actualizing both of these (past and future) in the present to transform persons, communities, and the world.

Ancient/future worship *remembers* the past and *anticipates* the future. When worship remembers the past, it praises God for God's work in history whereby he has already begun the restoration of the world. We remember...and praise...and live in light of what God has done. When worship anticipates the future, it looks for the culmination of all God's works in the complete transformation of the world, the consummation of God's work in Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. We look forward in anticipation and praise and live in light of what God will do. And when we do this in the present (remember and anticipate), we are transformed. Our worshiping community (Foothills Fellowship) is transformed, and ultimately this transformation seeps into the world.

This is who we want to become and remain: a worshiping community that is shaped by Jesus (His work in past and the work He will do in the future). As we've explored before, we are a part of God's story as revealed in the Old Testament and New Testament. We want to remember this and allow it to shape who we are today. In addition, we are the beneficiaries of 2,000 years of church history. We want to engage in some of the practices that have shaped the church over the centuries into worshiping communities that effectively participate in God's mission.

So for us – as far as corporate worship on Sundays goes - we need to view it as a time of worship in and of itself. But we also need to see it is a weekly practice that models (shapes) the rhythm of life a worshiper of the Lord Jesus ought to have. Therefore, our Sunday worship together will be more participatory than ever before. It will involve all of us rather than just a few from the front. We've already begun this transition, but today we will add the rest of the elements to what we have already begun. Our worship services will include these elements from here on out...

Call to Worship: We desire to live lives that are wholly devoted to the Lord, impacting and shaping every area of our lives. This call to worship is a call for God's people to reorient their lives in submission and worship of the King of kings.

Worship in Song: We joyfully sing together because the Apostle Paul exhorts us in Colossians 3:16 to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (by) singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Prayer: Jesus Christ is the King over all things and the Head of our church. Therefore, thanking Him, bringing our requests to Him, seeking guidance from Him, and listening to Him through prayer is at the core of all we do.

Offering: Everything we have comes from the Lord, and all throughout the Scriptures, we see that He expects His people to be extremely generous with the resources He has given them. By taking an offering each week, we have the opportunity to worship the Lord and exhibit our trust in Him by giving back to Him a portion of what He has given to us for the furthering of His kingdom both here and around the world.

Doxology: Since this chorus was written in 1709, the church universal has been singing it as a response to the Lord for His countless blessings. We will sing this each week after we take the offering as an act of corporate worship and as a reminder that "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." (James 1:7)

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), but - because of the death and resurrection of Jesus - "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Confession of our sin and then reveling in the assurance God gives us of His forgiveness through Jesus is something that God's people ought to engage in daily, and this is why we do it each week when we gather.

Scripture Reading: We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life. Therefore, we give the reading of Scripture a high place in our worship services.

Sermon: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17)

Celebrating Communion: God's people are to be people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, we meet together at the table each week in order to remember His sacrifice for us and to anticipate the day when we will join Him at the banquet table at the culmination of His kingdom (Rev. 19:6-10).