

GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

Topic: **WORSHIP**

Lesson: **HEBREWS 10:19-27**

Goal: to see that God wants us to make public worship a regular part of our lives

1) Read Hebrews 10:19-24.

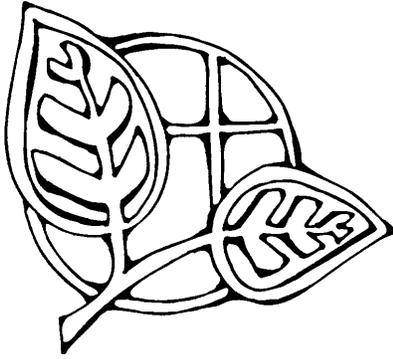
- The writer to the Hebrews uses an adverb to describe how we are to hold onto our hope of eternal life. What is it (verse 23)? Underline that adverb in your Bible.
- What would be some synonyms for that word? What would be the opposite of that word?
- Express the first half of verse 23 in your own words.
- In verse 24 we are told to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” How is this goal accomplished in worship?

2) Read Hebrews 10:25-27.

- In verse 25 underline the phrase “meeting together” and in the margins make the note, “This means worship.” For the Greek word translated “meeting together” is closely related to the word “synagogue,” a house of worship. Going to a house of worship is to be a “habit.” What is a habit? What are some examples of habits you have?
- How does “the day approaching” (I.E. — the coming Judgment Day) add a sense of urgency to the habit of worship?
- If we know God wants us to make worship a habit and yet we refuse to go, the Bible says that is a “deliberate” sin. It is not a sin we are committing in ignorance, but one we are committing against our conscience. If we “keep on” in that sin, what is the consequence (verse 26 & 27)?

3) Applying what you’ve learned

- During a lunch break at work you and some friends are talking about worship. One of your friends says, “I go sometimes, especially on holidays, but I don’t think you have to go to church regularly to be a believer.” What might you say to this person?



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Lesson: **PSALM 27:1-6**

Goal: to realize that God offers us security in worship

1) Read Psalm 27:1-3.

- David talks about the security he feels because of his relationship with the LORD. He calls the LORD his “stronghold.” List some ways God has provided you with security in your

...when it comes to your income.

...when it comes to your marriage (if married).

...when it comes to your and your family's physical safety.

...when it comes to the time of your death.

...when it comes to where you will spend eternity.

2) Read Psalm 27:4-6

- In verse 4 David tells God of one freedom that he wants preserved above all others. What is it? (In your Bibles underline that phrase and write, “David’s highest priority in life” in the margin.
- How does God “keep us safe in his dwelling”? In other words, how does God grant us security (make us feel safer) through worship?

3) Applying what you’ve learned

- Historically, churches thrive during difficult times. For example, churches often grow stronger during times of religious persecution. Church attendance generally rises during economic recessions. Why do you think that the church prospers in difficult times?



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Lesson: **ROMANS 1:15-17**

Goal: to see that the Gospel must take center stage in our worship

1) Read Romans 1:15-17

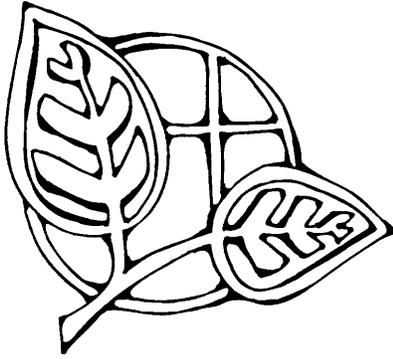
- In verse 15 circle the word gospel and in the margin write, “Gospel means ‘good news’.” In one sentence answer this question: What is the good news of the gospel?
- In verse 16 underline the phrase “it is the power of God.” Double underline the phrase “for the salvation.” Why must worship revolve around the proclamation of the Gospel?
- List some ways the Gospel takes center stage in worship?
- Paul tells us “I am not ashamed of the Gospel.” What are some ways we might act like we *are* ashamed of the Gospel?
- In worship we proclaim a “a righteousness *from God...* a righteousness that is *by faith from first to last.*” Why is that such a comforting message?

2) Applying what you’ve learned

- In Galatians 1:8 Paul writes, “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!”

Why would Paul speak so strongly about preaching the Gospel?

What does this verse tell us about the responsibility believers have as they listen to the pastor’s sermon?



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Topic: **WORSHIP**

Lesson: **COLOSSIANS 3:15-17**

Goal: to understand the importance of the people participating in the worship service

1) Read Colossians 3:15-17.

- List some ways believers demonstrate they are “one body” when they worship together.
- Underline the word “richly.” What does that word add to the meaning of verse 16?
- What is the difference between teaching and admonishing? How are both accomplished when the congregation sings “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”?
- Go through the three verses of our lesson and circle every word which deals with the topic of being thankful. In the margin of your Bible write, “Worship is an expression of thanks to God.”
- List some things we thank God for by participating in worship... by joining together with our fellow Christians for one hour of spiritual growth and praise.
- Would it be accurate to say that if someone regularly kept themselves from worship, that might be a sign they don’t completely understand all they have to be thankful for?

2) Applying what you’ve learned

- Your teenage son Tim tells you that he hates going to church on Sundays and would rather sleep in. Here are three possible responses.
 - 1) “That’s a decision you’ll have to make for yourself, Tim. I think you’ve made the wrong decision however.”
 - 2) “Tim, God tells us in the Bible we are supposed to go to worship. I’m afraid if you disobey God, you’ll go to hell.”
 - 3) “Tim, I really need you to worship with me. It strengthens me to hear you confess your faith with me.

Which of those responses is best, and why?



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Lesson: **PSALM 149:1-4**

Goal: to establish some principles of worship

1) Read Psalm 149:1-4.

- Sometimes people will say, “I can worship God all by myself in my own home.” This is a true statement. But where else does God ask us to worship him (verse 1)?
- What are some benefits that you can enjoy worshipping in a group which you cannot enjoy worshipping on your own?
- Verse 3 describes “dancing” and “making music.” Both of those are art forms, but they are different types of arts. What does this tell us about worshipping God?
- What are some other art forms that we might utilize in worship? Are you skilled in any of these art forms?
- Verse 4 reminds us of the motivation for worship. Why do we worship God?

2) Applying what you’ve learned

- We have seen that it is clearly God’s will for us to join other Christians in worshipping him. Apply this truth of Scripture to the following situations.
 - A) You are offered a job promotion, but it means that you will have to work almost every Sunday. What are your options?
 - B) You are considering buying a home, but it is 90 minutes away from a church that you are in fellowship with. What should you do, and what shouldn’t you do?
 - C) You are on vacation, and you don’t know if there is a WELS church in the area. What could you do?