

Sermon Discussion Guide **August 26, 2007**

Sermon Title: CHRIST'S PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH, PART 2
THE ROLE OF CORPORATE WORSHIP

Anchor Text: Psalm 63:1-5

Big Idea: The path to worship is surrender - the giving of oneself over to God. The path to surrender is worship – the ascension of one's heart to God.

Approach: *getting learners interested/immersed in the topic*

1. Are you more of a heart person or a head person? A thinker or a feeler?
2. How do you most typically celebrate a victory or lament a defeat?

Life Exploration: *helping learners relate the topic to their lives*

1. What style of worship music is easiest or most difficult for you to connect with and worship through?
2. What is a typical Sunday morning before church like for you? Do you have a routine that prepares you for corporate worship or one that leaves you frazzled, sleepy, or otherwise unprepared?
3. How much is worship of God a part of your life outside of Sunday morning?

Bible Exploration: *helping learners build a bridge from their lives to the Scriptures*

Psalm 63 was written by David when he was in the desert of Judah.

1. In v. 1, certain terms stand out which point to the emotion and passion of the psalmist. What are some of these? What are they expressing?
2. Worship is an expression born of an experience of God's revelation. What evidence do you see of this in the first three verses?
3. What must precede authentic worship of God? (v. 2-3)
4. What kinds of things are going on in the psalmist's heart that causes his lips to glorify God?

5. According to v. 5, how are we impacted deep within once we have enjoyed a worship-producing experience of God's revelation? Where in the teachings of Christ have we seen a similar pattern? (Ref. Matt. 5:1-12)
6. After reading this Psalm in its entirety, what do you think is the main message that God is conveying to us through this look at the psalmists heart?

Heart Exploration: *helping learners build a bridge from the Scriptures to their hearts*

1. What is your worship of God like presently? Are you enjoying Him, experiencing Him, connecting with His heart? OR is it a "dry period" where you are feeling disconnected and ambivalent toward God?
2. How has God revealed Himself to you at various points in your life in such a way as to influence how you understand Him, relate to Him and worship Him?
3. In what ways do you struggle in your worship of God?
4. In what ways do you think your heart is similar to or different than the heart of the psalmist?
5. Life can at times be a desert experience or a banquet-by-the-beach experience. How might your worship reflect more about where your life is at present, than who God is always?

Conclusion and Decision: *helping learners integrate the Scriptures into their lives this week*

1. What do you sense God saying to you as a result of this study regarding the worship of your heart?
2. As you look to the coming week and month, how might you begin responding differently to God's revelation of Himself through worship? What might you do differently to prepare your heart for worship?