

TTT384 - Guidance For Those Hosting Parts of Sunday Worship Series. Part 11 - Cosmic Worship

Today, we wrap up our series exploring why we do what we do at a Sunday gathering.

We have covered the New Testament and Old Testament perspectives, an introduction to the concept of 'hosting' worship, the aims of worship, general guidelines for attitude and practice, welcoming people, praying on our behalf, announcements and updates, testimonies, the Lord's Supper, the closing prayer, preaching, and in-between bits and pieces.

Let me offer a few final thoughts on what is *happening* when we gather for worship.

1. Cosmic Worship

What we do when we gather for worship here in this simple building echoes in the cosmos. As John Mark Hicks, Bobby Valentine, and Mark Wilson put it:

"Through Assembly, we enter the Holy of Holies as a community drawn from every nation, language, and tribe, and we join the community already gathered there—the saints who have gone before us." *Embracing Creation*

Jesus himself worships with us when we gather. He 'preaches' to us and sings with us,

"He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.'" (Hebrews 2:12 NIV11)

When we sing, pray, fellowship, take the Lord's Supper, and learn together, we connect with all the Lord's people past and present. Our worship adds to the vast worship chorus of eternity.

2. God at work

God is with us at all times, but perhaps our awareness of his presence is most liminal at times of worship with our spiritual family. He offers himself to us for whatever we need. He is willing and able to provide what we require.

As an example from Scripture, consider that it was collective prayer that moved God to send his Holy Spirit and progress his mission by supplying boldness to his people,

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." (Acts 4:31)

When we worship, God works.

Conclusion

As you can see, meeting on Sunday is *much more* than tea and teaching!

How do these thoughts make you feel about coming to worship on a Sunday? How does it help *you* in *your* worship? Will you *think* differently about anything? Will you *behave* differently in worship? Will you *prepare* differently before coming on Sunday? Why not share your ideas with another person here today?

Finally, pray that God will make us more aware of our cosmic connections and how he can empower us to get his work done.

God bless, Malcolm

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

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<https://aim.moodlecloud.com/>.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical?

Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God grows His people", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

Please pass the link on, subscribe, and leave a review.

Keep calm and carry on teaching.

God bless, Malcolm