

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

Sunday June 10, 2018

Extraordinary!

Titus 2:1-10

Look at Titus 2:1-10 in your Bible! Paul gives Titus counsel on how to help various types of people. The older should teach the younger by words and by example. All believers should live good lives, resisting bad influences as well as false teaching. Paul urged Titus to be a good example to those around him so that others might see his good deeds and imitate him. His life would give his words greater impact.

SONGS:

I Will Follow:

Being faithful in the ordinary causes our life to be extraordinary! Words like loving, self-control, pure, working, kind, submissive to spouse so the Word of God is followed and active in our lives. This is the way we follow Jesus! It means that we lay down our own agendas and hopes and dreams, and faithfully obey day by day. It's a daily dying to self—the crucifying of our own petty and self-centered desires so that we might more clearly reflect Christ to the people around us. In the end, it's not about bravado and bold statements. It's about simple, ongoing obedience to the words of our Lord. To say 'I will follow' is really not so different from saying 'Help me every hour to die to my own desires, Jesus, so that you can live more fully through me.'"

The Heart of Worship:

"When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come. . . . You search much deeper within. . . . You're looking into my heart."
Good music, catchy beats, talented musicians, even the friends and loved ones with whom we worship — these are all good things, and wonderful in the context of corporate worship. And yet when we focus on them, rather than Jesus, we are losing the heart in our worship.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman in John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The essence

of worship is not the many good externals, but heart and head---Spirit and truth---Our spirit, stirred by the Holy Spirit, in worship over true things about God, his Son, and his gospel.

“What’s essential for worship today is not music and microphone, but the truth about Jesus and the help of his Spirit.” The heart of worship is our heart, delighting in Jesus and expressing praise to him for the true things the Scriptures teach us about who he is and what he has accomplished for us. It is, then, “all about” Jesus, not us. It involves us, but we’re at the periphery. He’s at the center. He’s the focus. It’s his commands we consider first, not our preferences. Redman’s song is about refocusing, and re-centering, and reminding ourselves why we worship — and who we worship.

We Fall Down:

Psalm 145:13-15 *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His actions. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in season....*As we bow before the Lord and offer our praise, then praise takes our minds off ourselves and focuses them on God; praise takes us from individual meditation to corporate worship; praise causes us to consider and appreciate God’s character; Praise take our perspective from the earthly to the heavenly.

Ten Thousand Reasons:

The song begins with the chorus, a paraphrase of the beginning of Psalm 103, with its focus on the holy name of God and the need to tell our souls to praise the Lord for who He is. The song suggests we fully engage as we bless the Lord. Going through the motions is not enough. The first verse is about a new day in which we are summoned to bless the Lord: There’s something to be said for worship being one of the ways we fortify ourselves for the trials and struggles of life. Before entering a trial, we pray that God will keep us faithful, so that we will continue to praise the Lord when the hard day is over. The second verse and Psalm 103 focus on the Lord as merciful, rich in love, and slow to anger (verses 8-9). The goodness and kindness of the Lord is also a theme of the psalm. The song

implies that we are on a deepening journey of discovering different facets of God's love. Our praise will never end because we will never come to the bottom of God's goodness toward us. We continue to discover more and more things about God that are worthy of our praise. In Verse 3 the text paraphrases the theme of human frailty and mortality in Psalm 103:14-17. This is one of only a handful of contemporary worship songs that bring us face to face with our mortality. Looking back, we see some of the greatest hymns end with a statement about death and eternity. Think of the last verse of "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood" and its image of a "poor, lisping, stammering tongue" lying "silent in the grave" but singing "a nobler song." Or consider the later addition to "Amazing Grace," with its opening line: "When we've been there ten thousand years." What's interesting is how this song follows the pattern of famous hymnody rather than the progression of Psalm 103. Watch how Psalm 103 builds poetically on human mortality, and then shifts to the Lord as the subject:

For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.
As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting...

Instead of shifting to the eternality of God's love, Redman follows the pattern of "Amazing Grace" and "There is a Fountain" and focuses on our response to that love. Our praise will not end with death; we will continue to sing.

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!