**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP - THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

Session 8

**Rethinking Worship for the New Millennium**

Lecture 5

Taste versus Root

1. Taste

* Dt 14: Tithe is for church workers; the poor; and the cultic system.
* The worse thing: let people decide what they like to do in worship
* Making self is the objective of worship is a form of idolatry
* Splitting the congregation on the bases of:
  + Traditionists or old timers vs returnees, new outsiders
  + Age: old vs young
* Biblical teaching: the work of Christ 🡪 the breaking down of all barriers (Eph 2); Christ in Jn 17: that they will be one as we are one.
* Worship is for God who has a highly “eclectic tastes” 🡪 accepting all kinds of songs
* Tastes are sometimes burdened by past experience
* Posture and Gestures during worship
  + - Freedom to do so (e.g. stand if you may)
    - Making the cross at the beginning of worship: reminders of baptism

1. Roots
2. Jewish Root

* “Christ” is the title of the Jewish Messiah
* Old Testament and New Testament vs First and Second Testament
* First Testament (Hebrew Bible): what is the people of God
* Ge 13:3-4: altar 🡪 land 🡪 identity
* Land 🡪 holy places 🡪 the presence of God
* Holy places = places at which God speaks to us specially

1. Patriarch (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

* Theophany (dramatic appearance of God)
  + Sinai
  + Elijah (1Ki 18, 19)
* High Priest (Melchizedek): give us new vision of God
* Cultic Celebration: ritual
  + We need ritual and always have ritual (e.g. secular America rituals of Rose Bowl, then Super Bowl, etc.)
  + Good ritual reminds us of spiritual realities: priest preaches facing congregation; facing the same direction of the congregation while praying, etc.

1. Moses

* Torah (not as abuser of the Law): is absolutely important to Israelites; In Ps 119 only 2 verses the concept of law is missing.
* Ritual of the cross 🡪 baptism
* “*Call to Worship*”: based on God chose us; and invite us into his presence
* Veil was torn from top to bottom (not bottom to top): God comes out of the Holy of Holies (not that we can get in)
* Christ is the High Priest and the Offer: he offer worship through us.

1. David

* Confession Psalms (Corporate Confession)
* Mic 6:6-8: dialectic: we want to offer all we can, but never enough; we want to offer all we can, but only changed life counts
* Ge 22 (Abraham offering Isaac)
  + Kierkegaard: Abraham offers hid son by a blind faith
  + Abraham: “The Lord will provide”: God says I will not ask you to offer your first born son as all the surrounding religions do, I am always the one who makes sacrifices; I offers my fist born son.

1. Solomon

* Temple: a beautiful place for God
* Develop of Feasts (always invites the strangers to join; separation from the surrounding cultures

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| Festival | Theme |
| Passover | Barley Harvest / deliverance |
| Pentecost | Wheat Harvest / Holy Spirit |
| Tabernacles | Vine Harvest / deliverance (wandering in the wilderness) |
| Sabbath |  |
| Jubilee | 7 yrs; 50 yrs (redistribution of wealth) |
| Ros Hoshana | New Year |
| Yom Kippur |  |
| Purim | Esther 9 |
| Dedication | Light |