



Worship – Part 28
Acts of Worship – Part 16
Worshipping God with Our Talent
GCSP – 11/24/2007

The following is a true story – although I could not find the source and may have forgotten some of the details.

There once was a teenage boy who was looked down upon by the local townspeople. His father was a drunk and a panhandler and he always put his son down and told him that he would never amount to anything – on occasion he would even beat his son for no other reason than to lash out at his own miserable life.

It was a small town – everybody knew everybody, so escaping the heritage of a drunken father was impossible. Even when there were people who did not know him he could hear the whispers – “Oh, that’s Johnson’s boy, you know, the town drunk who is always looking for a handout to buy another bottle.”

The boy was pretty much left to fend for himself. He walked the town with his head down and he avoided contact with other people – not wanting to be reminded of who he was and how he was viewed by the rest of the people. His father constantly told him that he would never amount to anything and he was well on his way to fulfilling his father’s prophecy.

Then one day the only church in town brought in a new young pastor. The town was all abuzz with excitement and anticipation. It wasn’t that the previous pastor was bad but he was very old and most of the townspeople struggled staying awake during his sermons, and they definitely were not doing much of anything as a result of what was being taught.

After several weeks of seeing the excitement in town, our teenage boy decided he wanted to see what all the excitement was about – but that is difficult to do when you are trying to avoid other people. So he resisted the urge to go in and just stayed outside straining to hear what the preacher was saying. This went on for several weeks.

Finally, he determined that he was going to go inside on the next Sunday. So he waited until the service had already started and quietly slipped into the back corner of the church. As he sensed the service was about to end he quickly slipped out and ran home before anyone could see him.

Week after week he continued to sneak in after the service already started and week after week he slipped out before it was over. But then one Sunday he was so enthralled with the message and so wrapped up in the words the preacher was saying that he missed his opportunity to slip out unnoticed. Before he knew it the aisles were packed with people and he was blocked in.

Then he heard the preacher’s voice calling in his direction; “Young man, I want to talk to you!” The young man’s greatest fear was coming to pass. He tried to duck, to run, to hide, but he had nowhere to go. The townspeople took notice of the preaching making his way toward this young man and the church quickly grew silent to hear what they thought would be the preacher scolding this young man.

The preacher asked, “Son, whose boy are you?” The young man cowered and looked down at his feet silently. “Look at me” the preacher said. The young man slowly raised his chin and looked the preacher in the eye.

"Oh, I know you" the preacher exclaimed. "Why the family resemblance is undeniable. I know who you belong to. Why, you're a child of the King! You're one of God's boys; now go out there and live like it!"

That young boy went on to become the longest termed governor that state ever saw.

How often do we forget our spiritual heritage? How often do we forget whose son or daughter we are? How often do we forget that we are children of the King of kings and Lord of lords? How often do we forget that we are heirs of the Father and joint-heirs with the Son – and have you ever pondered the implication of being a joint-heir? It isn't a second class heir but a co-equal heir with Jesus Christ – how unfathomable is that?

I often allow myself to ask the question, "Who am I that God would see fit to use me?" I often consider myself so unworthy and to some extent so useless and worthless – especially when my circumstances are not what I want them to be.

But beloved, we are children of the King! We are the earth's true and genuine royalty! And I trust by the end of tonight's sermon you will understand the massive implications of this truth and you will charge out of here with a new found attitude and a new found courage to act like a child of the King.

Turn with me in your Bibles to **Psalm 139**.

Psalm 139:13-18

Let's pray.

In the last two sermons, prior to our Thanksgiving praise service last week, I hopefully laid out a foundation for you to build on concerning worshipping God with your time. Based on a single day in the life of Jesus while on this earth, we looked at eight principles of how to worship God with your time. They were:

1. Church Attendance
2. Teaching
3. Releasing Those Who are in Bondage
4. Healing
5. Fellowship, Relaxation, and Physical Nourishment
6. Ministering to Strangers
7. Sleep
8. Communion with God

There are obviously many other worthy aspects of worshipping God with your time that we did not cover, but copying what Jesus did is always a good place to start. So we hopefully understand that a big part of our worship includes how we use our time. We must redeem the time we have by worshipping God through our use of this time – remembering that this does not mean constant activity and remembering the importance of a Sabbath rest each week.

Tonight we want to understand the worshipping God with our talent – and the best way to understand this is to first understand who you are in Christ.

And let me state up front, understanding who you are in Christ begins with salvation. The statement that is bandied about, "We are all God's children" is true in one sense but totally false in another. It is true in the physical sense that all creation comes from God – including all humans – but it is false in the spiritual sense. In the spiritual sense, the children of God only

consists of those who have confessed their sins and confessed Jesus Christ as the Lord and Master of their lives, and have genuinely believed in their hearts that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and that God raised Him from the dead on the third day. If that does not describe you tonight then you are presently not a child of the King – but you can be. God is not yet finished adopting children into His family.

If He was finished then the next sound you would hear will be the trumpet, calling all His children home to heaven, and the seven-year tribulation period would commence on this earth as described in the Book of Revelation. So tonight there is still time for you to join the rest of us as children of the King and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

So let's break down the verses of this Psalm so we will truly understand who we are in God's eyes. And then we can echo the little boy who came home from Sunday school and proudly proclaimed, "God made me, and God don't make no junk!"

v. 13 – "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb."

God formed your inward parts. This means so much more than your vital organs; He did indeed form those but the depth of meaning wrapped up in the Hebrew also includes your emotions, your moral sensitivities, and the inclinations of your mind, heart, and soul. As we grow and as we choose to sin we corrupt what God created but we must not lose the sense of awe that we should get from knowing that God created everything that you are.

As much as modern science has been able to see and detail for us the processes of how a fertilized egg grows and how organs are formed and limbs appear and blood flows and brain activity is stimulated, and on and on, they still haven't the foggiest notion of how life begins. How is a brand new life started from two existing lives? Man can know and understand the process but they cannot know where the spark comes from that sets that new life in motion – apart from God. And this verse tells us that.

God created you. He formed your heart and your lungs and your kidneys and your muscles and your skin and the color of your hair and the color of your eyes and the pitch of your voice and the length of your frame; and He did it all while you were still in your mother's womb. He wove you together as a one-of-a-kind creation.

Charles Spurgeon says in his commentary of this verse, "*There I lay hidden – covered by Thee. Before I could know Thee... Thou (had) a care for me, and (did) hide me away as a treasure till Thou (should) see fit to bring me to the light.*" Spurgeon rightly asserts that you are God's treasure.

You are unique in your design. God doesn't have a divine assembly line where He pumps out a certain quantity of design number 389 and then a certain quantity of design number 390, etc. When God formed and created you He then destroyed the mold.

Da Vinci didn't paint duplicate copies of the Mona Lisa. Once the masterpiece was complete it was complete. God didn't create a duplicate of you. You are His masterpiece and you do not duplicate a masterpiece.

Can you imagine the Mona Lisa painting talking back to da Vinci and saying, "Leonardo, all of the paintings I see on TV have prettier eyes and fuller lips and more shapely bodies. My hair is too straight; and could you have found a more boring and less flattering dress than this one? And I don't like my smile at all; it looks like I am hiding my teeth; everyone is going to think my teeth are yellow." How ridiculous that is, but isn't it the same with us when we complain about how God made us?

You are the unique creation of God and every time you complain or put yourself down you are actually saying God screwed up when it came to me. How awful for us to think that way. You are not a mistake, you are not defective in design, you are not worthless, and you are not of little or no value; you are God's uniquely designed masterpiece and you are of such tremendous value that Jesus Christ willingly took your place on the cross so you could have eternal life in heaven with Him!

David wishes to set the record straight as to what your attitude should be about who you are and how God chose to create you.

v. 14 – “I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.”

When is the last time you thanked God for the way you look? When was the last time you looked in the mirror and praised God for the wonder of who you are and the unique features God weaved into your face and body?

Beloved, I have to tell you – this is a crowd of good-looking people! You are absolutely beautiful in the eyes of God and who are we to decide who's a 10 and who's an 8 and on down the line. Every line and wrinkle, every curve and every bulge, every last detail of who you are is beautiful in the sight of God.

But where does God look more so than on your outward appearance? God looks on your heart – which He also created. God sees the true beauty of who you are. He sees beyond what you and I can see. He sees the true worth and the true value of who you are. He doesn't care what the world may say, He doesn't take into account what your father or mother might have said when you were young, or still possibly even say today, no, He sees who you really are. He sees that you are fearfully and wonderfully made in His very image. God sees your true beauty and He knows your true worth and He rejoices in you! You are His masterpiece and it grieves Him when you are dissatisfied with what He has created.

v. 15-16a – “My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance.”

Nothing was hidden from God. God did not miss anything when He formed you. Every artery and vein and the blood that runs through them, every muscle fiber, every skin cell, every bone and the marrow they contain, every protein and every strand of DNA was created, formed, and put in its proper place when God designed you. Absolutely nothing was missed.

And if you have some sort of deformity, or at least what the world calls deformity, even that is not a mistake. God has a divine purpose and plan for why He made you the way you are and you are a perfect and beautiful masterpiece in His sight.

v. 16b – “And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.”

Do you see that? Did you catch the implications of this verse? Before you were even born, and in the correct context, before you were even a fertilized egg in your mother's womb, God ordained how many days you would live on this earth.

How many times can you look back on your life in wonder that you are still alive? For some that realization is much more vivid than others, but I am sure we could go around the room tonight and hear story after story of the times you should have died.

Why didn't you? Because the all the days written in God's book for your life have not been fulfilled.

Beloved, your time is ordained by God, meaning it is set. Jesus says in **Luke 12:25**, "**And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span?**" the answer is none of us. We cannot extend our lives beyond what God already has written in His book, and He wrote it before we were even created.

Now don't miss an important truth. Before you run off and decide to eat nothing but cream puffs and bonbons, we still have a measure of control over the quality of our lives; we just have absolutely no control over the quantity of time in our lives. God says there is some benefit in bodily exercise and He has given us some terrific guidelines for a good diet in the Bible, but this is designed for the quality of your health and energy and vitality, not so you could live a longer life.

If we would really grab a hold of this truth we could live our lives without fear. We could be fearless in our Christian walk with the Lord. We would know that no snake or scorpion or poison could harm us as it says in **Mark 16:18**, meaning that until God is finished with us in this life, until all the days ordained for us are complete, nothing can take our life.

Again, this is not a license to live your life in a reckless and dangerous fashion and it does not give you a free pass to do stupid things and thus presume upon God. But it does give us a fearless streak when we understand our lives are in His hands. And if we had time to go to **Luke 12**, we would see that as long as God still has life for you to live, He is going to provide for you physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

v. 17-18 – "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You."

Wow! Not only are you God's masterpiece, you are continually on His mind! You know how your children are always very close to the forefront of your mind? Well multiply that by infinity and that's how God thinks about and cares for you.

How awesome this is! How privileged it is to be a child of God!

I said all of that to get to this one point, so listen up. If God has created you as His masterpiece; if God perfectly formed you in your mother's womb; if God weaved together every last detail of who you are; if God has ordained the number of your days and absolutely nothing can shorten them; and if God has you on His mind continually, then can we not worship Him with all of the gifts and talents He has formed in us? Can we not take every last ability we have and use them to His glory and to His honor and to His purpose?

I have had people in the past tell me they feel useless in what they are able to do in the church and I have had people who simply choose to do nothing in the church. Both are wrong. The one who feels useless feels that way because of all the things they "can't" do – but God doesn't expect you to do what you "can't" do. He only expects you to use the gifts and talents and abilities He has given. The one who simply chooses to do nothing is not being obedient to His Creator.

Ephesians 2:10, says, "**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them**" (KJV).

If you have the ability to cook, then use that ability for God. If you have the ability to clean, then you be about the business of cleaning for God. If you can fix things and build things, then you fix and build for God. If you are completely bedridden then you become an intercessor and pray for others and for the church.

Worship God with the gifts and talents and abilities He has given you, because...

Well I know you. I know whose child you are. The family resemblance is undeniable. Why you're a child of the King. Now go and live like it!

Let's pray.