

Pray: The cleansing touch of God's grace will purify your speech.

Monday 5/26

Read: God will also make his people worshippers. Do you recall in our previous discussions we defined worship as showing extreme devotion or reverence towards the object being worshiped? Think about what it means when you are enabled to worship God.

Application: The ability to worship God brings about a complete reversal in your attitude. With a renewed adoration and veneration towards God you are able to use the pure speech he has given you to spill forth praise for all that he is and all that he does.

Pray: Your conversation will always be seasoned with salt, spicing up and preserving the lives of others with the words of God.

Tuesday 5/27

Read: The sins you commit against God are shameful, bringing to an end your relationship with him. When the Holy Spirit convicts you of your sin you suddenly understand the magnitude of your disobedience. This realization causes you to view your sin with grief and hatred.

Application: The Holy Spirit enables you to see your sins against God, turn away from those sins with great grief and turn your face towards God in obedience to him. Herein lies the wonder of God's promise to remove your shame. Your natural response is to be so repulsed by what you have done that you allow it to cripple your new found relationship with Christ. God knows this, and gives you the wonderful promise that your shame will be set aside.

Pray: You would take hold of God's promise to remove the crippling effects of the shame and guilt you have concerning your sin.

Wednesday 5/28

Read: God further promises to make you meek and humble. However, this does not mean there is nothing in which you might take pride. You may rightly take delight and satisfaction (pride) in your marriage. You should possess a sense of achievement (pride) in raising godly children. Such pride does not oppose God's promise to make you meek and humble.

Application: A godly pride is one which does not boast in itself but instead boasts in the work of God in your life. However, taking delight and satisfaction in your achievements is only proper when you acknowledge God as the source of your accomplishments. The ability to give all glory to God is part of the meekness and humility that God promises to give you.

Pray: You will glorify God with a spirit of holy meekness and humility.

Thursday 5/29

Read: God's restoration effects such a magnificent change. You are indeed a new creation. The old self-serving nature is gone replaced by a desire to be God-serving. The purpose of your life takes on a new meaning and a new significance.

Application: Read **Matthew 16:24**. We are to take up the cross. The cross is a symbol of death. Christ died on the cross for his people. The command to take up the cross is a command to obey and identify with Christ even unto death. It is a call to give up your natural desire to pursue comfort for yourself.

Pray: You would live your Christian life with eyes continually focused on the cross of Christ.

Friday 5/30

Read: By taking up the cross of Christ you become his disciple. You are Christ's pupil, learning his ways and conforming your life to his standards of conduct. Each day you seek to learn more about the One who has brought you back into God's family.

Application: Learning the ways of God is a daily process lasting a life time. You allow his word to overcome your weaknesses and strengthen you strengths. Through the word of God you are set apart for his service.

Pray: That you would commit every moment of your life to serving the God who lovingly spared you from his wrath.

Saturday 5/31

Read: Study **Zephaniah 3: 14-20**. The wrath of God spoken of earlier by Zephaniah is a story of death and destruction. Now Zephaniah sings the song of God's restoration. This song speaks of gladness and rejoicing. It proclaims the vindication that comes with an identity in Christ.

Application: What a marvelous turn around. No longer should your focus be on God's wrath. Rather, you should now set yourself on the joy that comes from a heart committed to Christ. Service to God becomes a work created for you in the heavenly realms.

Pray: For joy and excitement as a follower of Christ.

Majesty

Hayford 1

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory,
Honor and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own, His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high
The name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty.
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

We Will Glorify

Twila Paris 2

We will glorify the King of kings,
we will glorify the Lamb;
we will glorify the Lord of lords
who is the great I Am.

God Almighty reigns in majesty,
we will bow before his throne;
we will worship him in righteousness,
we will worship Him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,
He is Lord of all who lives
He is Lord above the universe,
All praise to him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings,
Hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I Am.

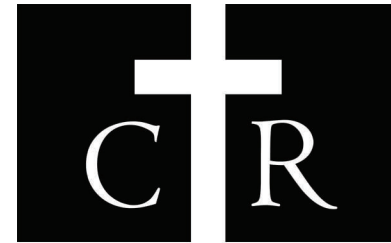
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Taking Gathered Worship Home

Zephaniah-The Day of the Lord

Week of May 25, 2008



CHRIST *the* REDEEMER

■ PRESBYTERIAN ■

Thus far in Zephaniah God has made clear the wrath he will unleash against those who continue in their sin. The distressful words God has revealed through his prophets are now replaced with words of mercy. We will see that the God of wrath is also a God of love and reconciliation. **Zephaniah 3:9-13** begins to show the extent of the transformation God will bring into the lives of his people. He will give them a pure tongue, open the doors to his service to them and return a spirit of meekness and humility into their being. Even the shame of the sins they have committed against God will be taken away. God will restore righteousness to his chosen people.

Reading this week from Zephaniah 3:9-13

Sunday 5/25

Read: It is no accident the first promise of God found in this portion of Zephaniah is that of a clean mouth. What comes out of the mouth of a man comes from his heart, and it is his unclean heart that defiles his speech (**Matthew 15:18**). The lips of the godly speak much differently.

Application: What a blessing it is to have God's love touch your lips allowing you to speak pure and righteous words. The man of God will "**speak wisdom**" and "**talk of justice**" (**Psalms 37:30**). Scripture teaches us to keep unwholesome or corrupt words from departing from our lips (**Ephesians 4:29**). Rather, we are to speak words of edification, bestowing grace on the hearers.