

In the Presence

Exodus 19:9 – 15

I. Intro

- A. **Question:** What purpose is served by us gathering together in corporate worship?
- B. **Question:** What is gathering together for corporate worship really all about?
- C. **Summarize v. 1 - 8**
- D. When we come together to worship, and enter into the presence of God, there must be three things that must happen with us
- E. **READ Exodus 19:9 - 15**

II. 1 – Conviction

- A. *conviction* (Def.) - a strong persuasion or belief; the act of convincing a person of error or of compelling the admission of truth
- B. **REFER v. 9;** God tells Moses to let the people know He is coming to them, they will meet Him, they will hear His voice; the purpose - so that they will *believe* that it was really God Himself had appeared and spoken with Moses
- C. As part of this notice, God in one word tells Moses and the people what He expects of them – obedience, to follow His command for this meeting, to be able to enter into God’s presence
 - i. Command of personal preparation – cleansing and purifying (**v. 10, 15**)
 - ii. Command of limitations (**v. 12**)
 - iii. Consequence of not obeying (**v. 12, 13**)
 - iv. Command of acceptability (**v. 13**)
- D. Same expectation essential, required for us by God when entering His presence in worship: **1** – cleansing and purifying (confession of sin, any reconciliation between fellow believers); **2** – abiding by any limitations God has described for us in His Word regarding entering His presence in worship (many found in Paul’s first letter to Corinthian believers, especially Ch. 14); **3** – understand the consequences of not obeying God’s intentions for worship; finally, **4** – knowing when we are considered acceptable to God in order to enter into His presence for worship
- E. 1 Corinthians 10:32-33 (ESV)
 - 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,
 - 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, (**ultimate goal**) that they may be saved.

- F. All these are the convictions - the firm beliefs and compelling truth we and all believers in the church should have when coming together for worship

III. **2 – Consecration (v. 10)**

A. Part of cleansing, purifying mentioned earlier

B. *consecrate* (Def.) - to make or declare sacred, holy; plain words – totally given over to God, to be separated from the pollutions and corruptness of the world; being sanctified and made righteous before God

C. For God’s people here in the passage they were instructed to not only be made clean within, but also without; ... *wash their garments*

D. Jesus declared that ...

23 ... true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **John 4:23 (ESV)**

i. **Question:** What exactly does that mean?

a) *in spirit* – worship starts from within, from the heart; in conjunction with the presence of the Holy Spirit; must be genuine and sincere, motivated by our love for God and Christ and out of gratitude for all He has done for us; worship *in the spirit* is not mechanical or formalistic

b) *in truth* – must conform to the revelation of worship by God in scripture; informed by who God is and what He is like; true Christ-exalting and God-honoring worship must never be mindless or based in ignorance

c) Worship, done both in spirit and in truth, is powerful and uplifting – goes way beyond just “satisfying”

E. There’s is no way any person(s) can truly experience genuine, real worship of the Lord apart from *spirit* and *truth*; in that situation, corporate worship is nothing more than just a group of people gathering together in a specific place on a specific time going through a specific routine for their own benefit and purpose

F. Ultimate reward for this consecration - notice – twice God tells the people to *be ready for the third day* – in three days God will manifest Himself before the people and Moses on Mt. Sinai

i. In NT, told about another very significant manifestation of God after three days – resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ; greatest revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ that’s ever taken place

ii. Why? Because this solidified our redemption; it sealed the victory over all sin and death available to all people through faith and trust in Christ as Savior

iii. The next, and final, great manifestation of God will be Christ’s return; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

IV. **3 - Compliance**

A. *compliance* (Def.) - act of conforming, submitting to a desire, demand, proposal, or regimen; in one word - obedience

B. Some of the guidelines God set for Moses and the people (v. 12, 13)

i. Could not go up the mountain with Moses when God's presence was there; couldn't even get near the edge – avoid even the temptation to go up

ii. If anyone didn't "comply" with this command, the result was death

iii. To even touch a person not "complying" with this command resulted in death

C. Not following and obeying God's commands, not following and obeying His Word, still results in the same consequence today – death

i. Jesus' words: John 14:21 (ESV)

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

ii. James 1:22 (ESV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

iii. 1 John 2:17 (ESV)

17 ... the world is passing away along with its desires (*passing away – means dying*), but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

iv. Also, Jesus' words: Matthew 7:21 (ESV)

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

V. Close

A. All of these requirements and preparations God was giving His people were to make them ready to receive God's covenant – His law which is recorded beginning in Ch. 20

B. And these requirements and preparations God has given to us is to make us ready to receive His presence among us as we gather and join together in corporate worship – real, genuine worship in spirit and in truth

C. The end goal being the salvation of men, women, and children; the building up and spiritual growth of the body of Christ – that is church, that is worship, that is coming into the presence of God