

## **Connect Group notes 17.2.25**

Chris began the next sermon series '*Praise*' on Sunday.

God is looking for worshipers... worship is the ultimate thing we do in our relationship with God. It is eternal - compared to anything else we do for God.

Chris talked about the fact that we all choose to worship *something or someone*, and in doing so there are expectations about the way we worship.

### ***"We are ruled by the God we choose"***

If we have chosen to worship the Almighty, one true God, this is true as well, and so there are certain non-negotiables as to how we worship him.

In the Old testament worship had to be..

- a.) At an appointed place,
- b.) Requiring sacrifice and active participation, and
- c.) In observance of particular rituals

This highlights the fact that worship is *not about us*, and costs us something.

In our current context and because of Jesus... we don't have to worship in a certain place, worship happens in our spirits. God is looking for a *people not a place*, and we come through the shed blood of Jesus, who became the sacrifice for us.

## **Discussion points**

Chris commented that there are profound similarities between the old and new covenants.

1. Read John 4: 21-24

- What does it mean, or look like, for us to worship God in “spirit and in truth”?
  - What does self-sacrifice have to do with this?
  - Have we ever been prone to worshiping for ourselves, or our own enjoyment? What does this look like?
  - How does remembering to approach God in his holiness, *on his terms not ours*, impact the way we worship?
2. Chris talked about the pitfalls of familiarity in worship
- Why does something in us die when we don’t heed God’s instructions on things (in this case re worship)?
  - Can we lose the significance or sacredness of worship due to familiarity with it?
  - Why our ‘good intentions’ never a substitute for obedience?
3. Pride is an issue when it comes to worship as worship requires humility, weakness and reverence.
- How does pride interfere with our ability to worship God in spirit and in truth?
  - How can we prepare our hearts well for worship?

### **Application**

- Consider one aspect of how we worship God in our lives (loving and serving our family, personal or corporate singing, etc) asking God to show us how to worship him in these areas in spirit and in truth. Be intentional each day with what he shows you regarding this.

### **Pray**

- That when we meet together as a body, our worship would be acceptable to God and that we join together in it, in spirit and truth.
- Ask God to show us how we worship him in many different ways.
- Ask God to show us areas of our lives that prevent us from worshiping well and repent of these.