



Worship 101: God Speaks

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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Head: Understanding the Bible

“Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, to such an extent that men are without excuse, yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and of his will which is necessary for salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at various times and in diverse ways, to reveal himself and to declare his will to his church...Therefore the Holy Scripture is most necessary, God's former ways of revealing his will to his people having ceased. ”

~Westminster Confession of Faith I.1

- 1) Where do people look today to hear God speak to them? What kind of statements are made inside and outside of the church? How do you know they are true?
- 2) Read Hebrews 1:1-4 and the quote above from the Westminster Confession of Faith. Why do we need God to speak to us? How has God spoken to us?
- 3) Have you experienced a time where you cry out to God and it seems like He is “far from the words of your groaning?” (Psalm 22:1) Or had God “bolt and double bolt the door” in your face?
- 4) What is God’s clearest communication to us, according to the writer to the Hebrews? What are we supposed to see and hear when we see God speak to us in Jesus (vs. 2-3)?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“Bryan Chapell writes that every text is predictive of the work of Christ, preparatory of the work of Christ, reflective of the work of Christ, and/or resultant of the work of Christ. As the Bible tells the grand story of what God is doing in the world, it tells us how he is doing it through Jesus. Jesus is on every page of the Bible.

~Tim Challies, Visual Theology 47

- 5) Read Psalm 22:1-8, a Messianic Psalm written by David. This has to be about Jesus because there is no place in the Old Testament that tells us that David suffered like this. What does Jesus rely on in the midst of the silence and distance of God? How would Jesus know about these things? What is Jesus being mocked for?
- 6) Psalm 22 switches from pleas for help to praise in vs. 20-24. How did God come to Jesus' aid after the silence? Is God silent in the midst of our suffering? (Heb. 1:3,4)

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

*How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

~Rippon's Selection of Hymns, Trinity Hymnal #94

- 7) Every week we gather to hear God call to us from His Word, we sing songs that are based on the Scriptures, our prayers are full of references to God's Word and the sermon is only true and helpful if it is proclaiming what is in the Bible. The service ends with a word from God, the Benediction. In light of these truths, how should we prepare ourselves for gathered worship on a Sunday? Do you expect God to speak? When we are miserable and hurting and God seems far from our words, why should we come to church?
- 8) Ultimately, according to Hebrews, what makes a good sermon? How can we the listeners redeem a bad sermon? Does this brief discussion motivate you to read the Bible more?
- 9) Take time to pray for God to speak to us every week, to break through our silence. Especially take time to pray for those suffering.