



Worship 101: God Summons

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Head: Understanding the Bible

“The Call to Worship exhorts God’s people to turn from worldly distractions and to focus hearts, minds, and actions on revering Him.” ~Bryan Chapell

- 1) What did you think of this statement: “Gathered worship is the primary and ordinary way that God meets with and changes his people”? Agree? Disagree?
- 2) What ways have you seen other churches begin a worship service? What is communicated by beginning our worship service with a Call to Worship from the Scriptures?
- 3) Read 1 Peter 2:4-12. How did we find ourselves in God’s presence in conversion, according to Peter?
- 4) Reflect on the image of darkness. What was our plight before coming to faith in Jesus? What is life like in the darkness?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

Question: What is effectual calling? Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

~Westminster Shorter Catechism, 31

- 5) Peter describes Jesus as a cornerstone in a spiritual house. He is the centerpiece and foundation of God's temple, His dwelling place. What does the cornerstone look like to those who do not believe? Why?
- 6) How do we, coming from darkness, come to see Jesus, as "chosen and precious."? What makes Jesus, the Light of the World, attractive to us? (See 2 Corinthians 4:6)

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

"Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings; It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings. When comforts are declining, He grants the soul again a season of clear shining, to cheer it after the rain."

~William Cowper, "Sometimes a Light Surprises", Trinity Hymnal #621

- 7) We begin our worship services with a "Call to Worship" to reflect the story of how God meets with His people. God calls and speaks first. How is this encouraging to you?
- 8) Coming into the light is a picture of coming into God's presence. (See Revelation 1:12-20). What is God's desired response from us, according to 1 Peter 2:9?
- 9) What effect does regularly hearing God speak first in gathered worship have on the Christian life the rest of the week?