

PP 1 Faith and worship

1. PP2 How do we know God accepts our worship?
2. PP3 Can I ever be good enough to worship?
3. PP4 Is our faith big enough to worship?

Pp5 Ephesians 3:7-12 (NIV2011)

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,

⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Oh my goodness what a passage and notice. It is just before the passage we spoke about last week, which is just before the passage we learnt last year. But we are going backwards. Perhaps, of just discovering some faith and worship in reverse.

This is the last week of our worship series. We look at Easter stuff from next week and really that just leads us to worship even more. So in some ways this is the wrap up sermon.

But we will do so by looking at this passage.

Lets look.

V7 PP6⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Now this is Paul talking, but if we read it as a personal document, after all we are to read the bible and expect it to speak to us, so read it as a personal statement.

Ok lets, Join me and we will read together.

⁷ PP8 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

So you have just stated that you are a servant of sharing the message of Jesus and God's Grace that God achieved through His power. You just said that. Be careful what you say. I hope that we can say we meant it.

A couple of words here.

PP9 Servant

diakonos

Probably from διάκω diakō (to *run* on errands; compare); an *attendant*, that is, a *waiter* (at table or in other menial duties);

So we are servants. Mmm that doesn't sound much fun in our society. Probably less so in the society and culture of bible times. Yes it is where we get our concept of deacons from. They are servants of the church. In the last 100 years the role of deacon in Baptist churches has evolved into being those in charge. That has never been the biblical view of leadership. Yet here the word gives us something about our worship. We serve God. We do God stuff as part of our worship.

Notice in the explanation of the word there is the idea of running errands. Ok Logistics are worship, the next is attendant, someone who helps people, yep worship, or a waiter, someone who serves food, yep worship. The list could expand but you get my meaning.

Remember what we said on the first week of this series, Pp10 worship is a verb – it's what we do.

Ok there is more in that verse but that's for another time.

Look at v8

^{Pp11 8} Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,

What is the subject of Paul's preaching? PP12 the boundless riches of Christ,

Ok step back a minute.

Another word Preach.

Pp13 euaggelizo

to *announce good news* (“evangelize”) especially the gospel: - declare, bring, declare, show) glad tidings, preach.

Note in the definition. Declare, show, bring, glad tidings. It has a wider meaning than just what we term preaching.

To use those wider meanings means that it is not only public proclamation, but also personal testimony, demonstration and a basic telling of a message.

But that telling or declaring is about something in particular.

Pp14 the boundless riches of Christ,

It is talking about how amazing Jesus is. Sounds like worship don't it!!!

That concept is continued in v9

^{pp15 9} and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Get it, to make it plain. Who to everyone.

But notice the part underlined:

Pp16 the administration of this mystery,

In other words telling them how God does it. Explain what it is that God actually does.

Sounds like worship and evangelism working together.

Now for something really interesting. We already know it, but we need to be freshly reminded.

^{pp17 10} His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

The way God wants to work in our world is Notice the underlined section.pp18 through the church,

That is you and me and you and me together. There is a sense of individuality and a corporate sense also. Notice too where the proclamation is to be heard: pp19 made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

Rulers in heavenly realms, that is a bit weird.

A couple of things here,

1. Rulers and authorities or as the KJV puts it Principalities and powers. Basically those in power, those with responsibility over things. So we tell people who are in charge.
2. In the heavenly realms. This is another idiom, it could mean, all those above us. It could mean preaching to demons, angels and other spiritual entities. From the makeup of the verse I figure it is those above us who are divinely appointed. That means the government elected. (What an appropriate passage for today) We are to make known Jesus to those politician people.

Now having read facebook and media this week there are many Christians who have left a lot to be desired in this concept this week. So many Christians have slandered one party or the other this week. It has been appalling. Where is our witness when it puts people down. You can disagree with a policy but to slander, criticise, denigrate an individual because they have a differing thought process on governmental issues is just not good for the sharing of the gospel. I have worked with and known politicians from all persuasions and all of them that I have worked for have had the best interest of Australia and NSW at heart. The way they do things are different but they are trying to do what is best, sure some get carried away with the power., but still our focus as Christians across the board is the sharing of Jesus information not putting people down. That is my bug bear for the week.

Notice the next bit.

pp20 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Oh crikey, does that mean that God's purpose is that the election went the way it did??? Huge topic, huge concept.

Well the gramma here is talking about the telling of the message being according to His eternal purpose. Note that again – pp21 it is God's purpose that we tell the message.

Now dig this last verse of that passage.

pp22 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

This is our place for worship in a nutshell.

It is by our relationship to Jesus and Faith that that relationship is valid and effective that we can have confidence to worship the Almighty God. Do we get that? I know I have to be reminded regularly.

Pp23 We worship a God who allows us to interface with Him.

Pp24 We worship a God who we know to be credible.

Pp25 We worship a God who we know we can place our faith totally in.

Pp26 We worship a God who make Himself approachable to us as individuals and as a united body.

Pp27 We worship God with freedom.

Pp28 We worship God with confidence that our worship is valid.