

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Notes from Rodney L. Barbour

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Theme: Pastor Alan writes: *Are you a leader or a follower? Are you an early or late adopter/adaptor? Do you set trends or are you the peer being pressured? Scripture describes just how the temple was financed and built; there are some sound principles at work in this morning's passage. Can they manifest themselves at Crestview as well? I guess the answer to that is up to you—whoever YOU are? After all, these few verses are meant to include us all!* Today we follow King David (I Chronicles 29: 10-17) in praising God for his greatness. Our constantly changing world is controlled by a constant and unchanging God. As we see life come and go, objects fade, materials decay, and friends change, the only thing on which we can truly depend is God's control. His love and purpose for us never change. Only when we understand this can we have real peace and security.

Preparation for Worship: The choir reminds us of these words from the Psalms: *Enter his gates with songs of thanksgiving; enter his courts with tributes of praise. Give to God blessing and honor; He is our Maker, the Ancient of Days.* What have you experienced this week that you would take time to thank the Lord for? What are some "happenings" in your life that you would offer praise to God?

Call to Worship: Today's call to worship is also words from several psalms. As you read this, take time to continue to reflect on God's greatness and power. Remember all we have is created and given to us by God. Thank and praise him for the vast resources he has given us to enrich our lives.

Leader: Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

People: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Leader: Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

People: Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

Leader: In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

People: Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

Hymn of Praise: With today's scripture coming from the Old Testament, we join Abraham and David in praising God as great Jehovah, we praise God as the great "I AM". We join the angels and those described in Revelation as well who

constantly worship God and never cease crying “Holy, holy, holy”! Here are some of the verses:

**The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed;
we bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.**

vs3

**The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and “Holy, holy, holy” cry, “Almighty King!
Who was and is the same, and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM, we worship thee.”**

Confession: We need to get a picture on what we are actually doing as worship. A key in today’s confession is this sentence: *“forgive us when our worship shapes you (God) into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want.”*

Pastor: Eternal God, you have revealed yourself to us in your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

People: But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be.

Pastor: We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless.

People: Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance.

Pastor: Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want.

People: Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your unspeakable majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ.

Scripture/Sermon: Take some time before Sunday and read through I Chronicles 29:1-19. Pray for Pastor Alan as he interprets these verses and challenges us to be God’s people at Crestview, in our homes and in our communities.

Going into the World: Today we leave this hour of worship with these words of praise for God on our hearts and voices: *Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing Power and majesty, praise to the King; Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work of Your hands, Forever I’ll love You, forever I’ll stand. Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.*

See you in Worship this Sunday. Rodney Barbour