



Kindle the Fire in Corporate Worship

You were made for more than private devotions.

As nice as it can be to tuck ourselves away in some nook and cranny, all by our lonesome, and read the Scriptures we want to read, pray the prayers we prefer, play the songs we like, memorize the verses we pick, and fast from food when it's convenient — as important as it is to pursue a regular rhythm of “private worship” in these personal disciplines — this is not the pinnacle of our Christian lives.

We were made to worship Jesus *together*. Among the multitude. With the great hoard. Swallowed up in the magnificent mass of the redeemed. God didn't fashion us to enjoy him finally as solitary individuals, but as happy members of a countless large family.

When the fog of everyday life clears, and we catch a glimpse of heaven's bliss, we don't find ourselves sequestered at a study desk or hidden alone in a prayer closet in paradise, or even standing alone before the great Grand Canyon or mountain peak of God's majesty, but joyfully lost in the worshipping throng of Christ's people from every tongue and tribe and nation.

We were made for *corporate* worship.

Cheerfully Lost in the Crowd

Heaven will be more spectacular than we can dream — and the new earth, even better than heaven — but it might be surprising to hear that perhaps the best foretaste we can get on this side is with the gathered church, worshipping Jesus together. Not that eternity will amount to an unending church service, but that we will be wonderfully immersed in a joy-multiplying multitude of fellow worshipers.

Continued on page 2

June Calendar

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 “CrossReference”

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
I Corinthians

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
The Gospel of John

Children's Church, Nursery available

Sun 6/1 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (AM Worship)

Wed 6/4 Book Group for Women (9:30 a.m., Browns)

Wed 6/4 (only) Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m., GIPC)

Sun 6/15 Father's Day
 CareNet's Change-for-Life Baby Bottle campaign ends. Return bottles to GIPC.



Sun 6/15 Guest Minister, AM & PM
 Rev. Ro Taylor (RUF/GSU)

Mon 6/16-6/20 PCA's 42nd General Assembly (Houston, TX)

Tue 6/24 Stated Session Meeting (6:00 p.m., GIPC)

Sun 6/29 Fellowship Lunch & General Assembly Report (see pg. 2)

In this issue



Committee Updates.....	2
Summer Preview.....	3
Bible Reading Plan.....	4
June 'Fighter' Verses.....	4

Kindle the Fire

(continued from page 1)

And in heaven's adoration, we join not only "many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11) — you might say "innumerable angels" (Hebrews 12:22) — but also the innumerable communion of the ransomed,

a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb . . . and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9–10)

While the corporate worship of Jesus by the church universal is an essential element in our great destiny, it is the corporate worship of Jesus by the church local that is a vital means of God's grace in getting us there.

Most Important Means of Grace

And it may be the single most important means of grace, and our greatest weapon in the fight for joy, because like no other means, corporate worship combines all three principles of God's ongoing grace: his word, prayer, and fellowship. It is corporate worship, with its preaching and sacraments and collective praises, confessions, petitions, and thanksgivings, which most acutely brings together the gifts of God's voice, his ear, and his body.

And so, according to Don Whitney, "There's an element of worship and Christianity that cannot be experienced in private worship or by watching worship. There are some graces and blessings that God gives only in 'meeting together' with other believers" (*Spiritual Disciplines*, 92). Or as Richard Foster says, "When we are truly gathered into worship, things occur that could never occur alone" (*Celebration of Discipline*, 164).

Perhaps your own experience of corporate worship as a means of grace has, at times, echoed that of Martin Luther: "at home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through."

Worship Is No Means

But talking about worship as a means of grace is tricky, because, as John Piper cautions us, true worship is not a means to anything.

Worship is an end in itself. We do not eat the feast of worship as a means to anything else. Happiness in God [which is the heart of worship] is the end of all our seeking. Nothing beyond it can be sought as a higher goal. . . . [T]rue worship cannot be performed as a means to some other experience. (*Desiring God*, 90)

What then do we mean when we say that corporate worship is an essential *means of God's grace*? Can it really be such?

Continued on page 3

Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, June 29th

All are invited to share a meal on Sunday, June 29th, following the Morning Worship service. Afterward, Rev. Brown will present a summary report on the PCA's 42nd General Assembly.

Important DATE!

Please sign up in the foyer to bring one of the following (for 8): a plate of sandwiches, a salad, or a dessert.

Finance Committee

Loan Update

Loan Balance 5/19/14	\$750,935
June Payment:	
Interest	\$ 2,373
Principal	\$ 2,878
Total Payment	\$ 5,251

Significant Sessional Actions

Rev. Brown is scheduled to attend the 42nd General Assembly of the PCA in Houston, TX, June 16-20. Pray for wisdom and unity among the church leaders as they meet to discuss, debate, and vote on issues of vital importance to the PCA. Upon his return, Rev. Brown will present a GA Summary Report to the congregation at a Fellowship Lunch on June 29th.

GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 912.638.2563
E-Mail: office@gipc-pca.org
48 Hampton Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522
gipc-pca.org

Kindle the Fire

(continued from page 2)

The Secret of Joy: Self-Forgetfulness

One distinction to make is between the essence of worship as joy in God and the context of corporate worship as the gathered assembly. While praising Jesus together is its greatest expression, worship is bigger than just the gathered church — for Sunday mornings and for everyday life (Romans 12:1). And related to this is the difference between how we think about corporate worship (and the various motivations for it and benefits from it) and how we experience it in the moment.

There is more to be said about the “graces and blessings that God gives only in ‘meeting together’ with other believers” — which can inspire our faithful engagement and help us appreciate the irreplaceable role corporate worship plays in our Christian health and growth — but for now, the question is, where should we turn our hearts and minds collectively *in the moment* to experience this grace from God?

The answer is that our focus should not be self-consciously preoccupied with how we’re being strengthened or what grace we’re receiving. Rather, our focus together is the crucified and risen Christ, and the incomparable excellencies of his person and work. Which illumines all the various spiritual disciplines. Corporate worship is a means of grace not when we’re caught up with what we’re doing, but when we experience the secret of worship — the joy of self-forgetfulness — as we become preoccupied together with Jesus and his manifold perfections.

See, then, the pregnant application to corporate worship in this summary by Piper:

All genuine emotion is an end in itself. It is not consciously caused as a means to something else. This does not mean we cannot or should not seek to have certain feelings. We should and we can. We can put ourselves in situations [corporate worship] where the feeling may more readily be kindled. . . . But *in the moment of authentic emotion, the calculation vanishes*. We are transported (perhaps only for seconds) above the reasoning work of the mind, and we experience feeling without reference to logical or practical implications. (92)

In this way, corporate worship, which is no means to anything else, is a powerful — even the most powerful — means of God’s grace for the Christian life.

So come to corporate worship for the many blessings, and then let the calculations vanish and lose yourself in the Blessed. Get yourself there with a reminder about how good it will be for you if you do, and as the gathering begins, go hard after the goodness of God and seek to forget yourself as you focus on his Son. ☞ ☐

Source: www.desiringGod.org Copyright 2014 David Mathis. Used by permission.

Summer Preview!

Beginning the week of June 8th, GIPC will enter the ‘summer recess’ time, meaning the weekly Women’s Bible Study, monthly Book Group for Women, Men’s Breakfast Bible Study, and Midweek Prayer Meeting will not meet again until the fall.

The Adult Sunday School Class continues to be a time for in-depth teaching and fellowship; please encourage one another to take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual growth during the summer months.

Summer Fellowship Gatherings

In lieu of the weekly small groups, our goal is to have a monthly GIPC gathering in a member’s home during June, July, and August. Families may team up to share meal preparation and service. All GIPC attendees and friends will be invited and welcomed! Dates, times, and locations will be announced.

Those families wishing to serve as a host home for June and July are asked to please contact Sara Brown for details and scheduling.

New Book Table

On a regular basis, our minister Alexander Brown will suggest book titles that our people will benefit from reading. Those titles will be available for purchase on a new book table. So, be on the look out for these recommended reading selections!

*“Encourage one another
and build one another up,
just as you are doing.”*

(I Thessalonians 5:11)

JUNE

"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Deuteronomy</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		13,14	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		27-28:19	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		28:20-68	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		33,34	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	<i>Joshua</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>

JUNE

"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)

Family Worship

Psalms Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Psalms</i>	88	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		89	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		90	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		91	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		92,93	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		94	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		95,96	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		97,98	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		99-101	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		102	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		103	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		104	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		105	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		106	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		107	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		108,109	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		110,111	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		112,113	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		114,115	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		116	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		117,118	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		119:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		v. 25-48	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		v. 49-72	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		v. 73-96	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		v. 97-120	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		v. 121-144	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		v. 145-176	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		120-122	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		123-125	<input type="checkbox"/>

JUNE

"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Isaiah</i>	33	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		34	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		36	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		37	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		38	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		39	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		40	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		41	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		42	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		43	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		44	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		45	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		46	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		47	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		48	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		49	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		51	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		52	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		53	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		54	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		55	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		56	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		57	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		58	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		59	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		60	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		61	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		62	<input type="checkbox"/>

JUNE

"Blessed is the one who reads...and blessed are those who hear." (Revelation 1:3)

Private

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Revelation</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	<i>Matthew</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		10	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week beginning JUNE 1

Psalm 105:4

Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

Week beginning JUNE 8

Psalm 118:5-8

Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

Week beginning JUNE 15

Psalm 118:13-14

I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me. The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

Week beginning JUNE 22

Psalm 119:14-16

In the way of Your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts and fix my eyes on Your ways. I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Week beginning JUNE 29

I Corinthians 15:1-3

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.