

Practical Ministry
at the Chapel
Summer Preaching Series
Chapel Elders

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Russ Kennedy

Series Introduction

↳ Purpose

- ↳ The aim of this series will be to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into the ministry we do here at the Chapel.

↳ Objectives

- ↳ To ground the ministry in the Word of God
- ↳ To explain how the ministries we do are derived from the Word
- ↳ To show how we work out doing ministry by wisdom
- ↳ To give each ministry an opportunity to lay out its mission, vision, objectives and goals.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

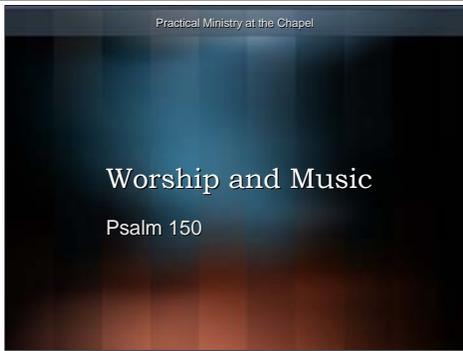
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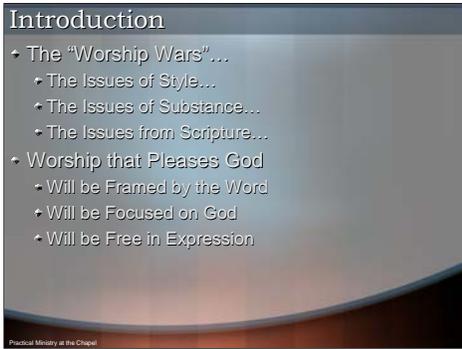
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Worship and Music

Psalm 150

Russ Kennedy



Introduction

The "Worship Wars"

I have been involved in the worship wars. In a past ministry, the transition to a blended, contemporary worship style brought the wrath of the traditionalists down on the worship and music ministry. Many churches have struggled with these issues. Many have simply settled into a pattern of a traditional service and a contemporary service, effectively creating two churches. There are many issues that people struggle with.

- The Issues of Style

While most resisting change don't like it being called "style" never-the-less, this is what it is. People love certain styles of music. For some, most styles of modern music are worldly or carnal and cannot be used in worship. Then, to complicate further, there are styles that are cultural and ethnic. These present real problems for people.

- The Issues of Substance

I am convinced that we are too focused on style and less focused on substance. This is a grave danger. The words we use in worship must be true about God, congruent with the Scriptures and represent authentic Christian experience. Otherwise, they are idolatrous, singing about or to another god. They are false and possibly heretical, singing error. They are misleading and raise false expectations and possibly even foster false experiences and emotions.

- The Issues from Scripture

In John 4:23-24, the Scriptures recast the issues as being about two key elements: spirit and truth. They shift from locales and postures and traditions to a focus on worshipping in spirit and truth. Jesus is saying here that God is seeking people who will worship Him with truth and in the realm of the spirit. This is not the Holy Spirit, but that new realm of the new creation, the realm of the heavenlies. In other words, even when it was highly formal and deeply regulated, worship was never primarily about the forms but about coming to God with all we are because of all He is for the greatness of His glory.

Worship that Pleases God

Worship then that pleases God has three main elements that we have sought to guide and guard all that we do in worship and music at the Chapel.

- Will be Framed by the Word

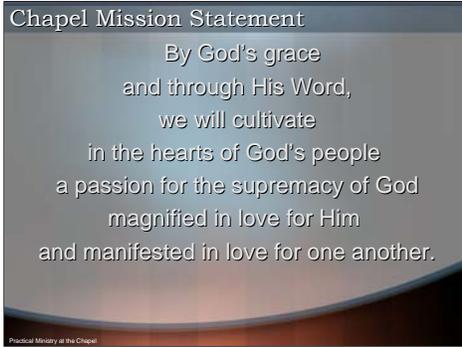
Worship that pleases God will be by the truth, in the truth and with the truth. Worship that pleases God will gladly embrace the fences the Word places – it will hold the line and worship on the line.

- Will be Focused on God

Worship that pleases God will be primarily focused on Him, even when it is being sung to one another.

- Will be Free in Expression

Worship that pleases God has freedom to express itself through the diversity of "to all the people groups". That freedom will worked out with the peacable, gentle, approachable wisdom God gives from above to those who ask in faith and do not doubt or are double-minded



Chapel Mission Statement

Here is the Chapel's Mission Statement. All the ministries we do are intended to be shaped by and to serve this mission statement. This statement is how we incarnate the Word of God in our day and place.

By God's grace and through His Word,
we will cultivate in the hearts of God's people
a passion for the supremacy of God
magnified in love for Him
and manifested in love for one another.

So, our worship intentionally seeks to: (highlights each portion of the mission statement)

- Function by grace;
- Follow God's Word;
- Cultivate the heart (beliefs, wants, minds, souls, wills, affections);
- Express passion for God, particularly His glory and greatness;
- Enlarge our love for God;
- Enable our love for one another.

Worship Mission Statement

• We will exalt the Savior, edify the saints, and evangelize sinners through corporate worship and music that exalts in God, expresses Biblical truth, experiences godly affections and exemplifies musical diversity.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Worship Mission Statement

We have set the following as our Worship Mission Statement:

We will exalt the Savior, edify the saints, and evangelize sinners through corporate worship and music that exalts in God, expresses Biblical truth, experiences godly affections and exemplifies musical diversity.

While there is much that can be said just from this statement, we will be looking at how this statement reflects what we believe from the Scriptures. It sets the tone and trajectory of worship that is pleasing to God. Yes, it is a few words about a massive subject. But it demonstrates that worship is from the heart which overflows into praise and life.

Scriptural Foundations

Psalm 150

- The Object of our Worship (v.1-2)
- The Means for our Worship (v.3-5)
- The Call to our Worship (v.6a)
- The Response by our Worship (v.6b)

Scriptural Foundations

Psalm 150

What scriptures provide a foundation for our corporate worship? We have already notice how Jesus casts worship in John 4. We could also go to Revelation 4-5 to see the worship around the throne of God. These texts as well as many others all inform and instruct our worship. But let us briefly go to the last song in the Psalter as the primary foundation for our worship.

The Object of our Worship (v.1-2)

God is the supreme and sole object of our worship. While at first this may be obvious, it is a much-needed clarion call today when our idols and false gods are often not competing religions. Much of what is passing for Christian worship is not about or to the God of the Bible and therefore, is idolatrous.

- The Location of that Worship

God is to be worshipped in His sanctuary – that is, in the heavens. We do not worship God as located in our hearts. Always and ever we worship God on His heavenly throne.

- The Content of that Worship

This is both what and why of our worship. We may worship God in His character and we may celebrate the wonders of all that He has done. So worship will involve a to Him and for us focus.

- The Standard of that Worship

God’s great excellence is the standard for our worship. This is not only for the leaders of worship, but for all participants – that His great excellence deeply engages our souls in all our worship.

The Means for our Worship (v.3-5)

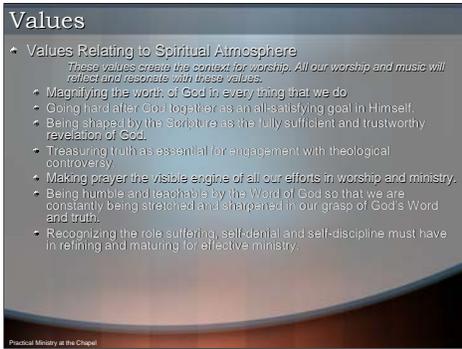
Here is simply the amazing varieties of styles and instruments in worship. This tells what can be done but not necessarily what must be done. Running all through this is the sense great, exulting, engaging, and yes, even loud, praise. It is sometimes solemn but mostly joyous. Even in the midst of singing our pain in a minor note, we must turn it to praise in the major keys.

The Call to our Worship (v.6a)

The call to worship is universal. Everything that has breath. All creatures are to worship God. Unbelievers are called to worship God by believing and bowing, then exulting in Him. But it is the sacrifice of praise from regenerate hearts that smells the sweetest and sounds the best to God.

The Response by our Worship (v.6b)

The Psalm opens with an imperative, “Praise the Lord”. We respond with, “Praise the Lord!” here at the end. In our worship and through our worship, the Lord is be praised! He is to be made much of and said most about. He is to magnified and manifested. He is to be praised!



Values

Values Relating to Spiritual Atmosphere

These values create the context for worship. All our worship and music will reflect and resonate with these values.

- Magnifying the worth of God in every thing that we do
- Going hard after God together as an all-satisfying goal in Himself.
- Being shaped by the Scripture as the fully sufficient and trustworthy revelation of God.
- Treasuring truth as essential for engagement with theological controversy.
- Making prayer the visible engine of all our efforts in worship and ministry.
- Being humble and teachable by the Word of God so that we are constantly being stretched and sharpened in our grasp of God's Word and truth.
- Recognizing the role suffering, self-denial and self-discipline must have in refining and maturing for effective ministry.

Values

- Values Relating to Spiritual Atmosphere
- Values Relating to Corporate Worship
 - These values frame and focus our worship and music.*
 - A public worship form that communicates the supremacy of God in all of life.
 - A sustained sense of lingering worship culminating in fervent, life-related, Biblical exposition attended by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - Music in our worship which is both God-centered and God-ward and is an expression of the diversity of believers among us.
 - Being a singing people who, by the Word and the Spirit, make a joyful noise to the Lord.
 - Understanding that in singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, we are to edify, encourage and admonish one another.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

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Vision

The Scriptures shape our vision for worship and music. We have broken that vision down into four major headings.

Our Vision for Biblical Expression

- This is our vision for Biblical authority and authenticity in our worship.

Our Vision for Gathered Exaltation

- This is our vision to be gathered with purity and passion in our praise.

Our Vision for Musical Excellence

- This is our vision to do all things well for the glory of our great God.

Our Vision for Ministry Experience

- This is our vision for the attitude, ability and approach of the musicians themselves.

Vision

- Our Vision for Biblical Expression
 - We will seek to pattern our worship after and prepare our worship for that of heaven.
 - We will be free to worship in all the ways the Bible requires and allows.
 - We will be true to the Scriptures both in the content and the effect of our worship and music.
 - We will strive to implement the elements of worship given in the Bible.
 - We will use music as the primary vehicle for our worship.
 - We will avail ourselves of all the musical instruments and vocal gifts God has given us.
 - We will be free to use a wide diversity of musical styles.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Our Vision for Biblical Expression

This is our vision for Biblical authority and authenticity in our worship.

We will seek to pattern our worship after and prepare our worship for that of heaven.

Worship is the unending and eternal purpose of the church. When the Bible reveals heavenly worship we pay close attention so as to take our cue from that.

We will be free to worship in all the ways the Bible requires and allows.

What we do in corporate worship will be joyously free in the field bordered by the fences the Bible has erected.

We will be true to the Scriptures both in the content and the effect of our worship and music.

The Bible will be at the center of the cause and consequence of our worship – truth and wants driving affections.

We will strive to implement the elements of worship given in the Bible.

The Bible defines and describes components, parts of our worship – things like music, scripture, testimony and preaching.

We will use music as the primary vehicle for our worship.

While the other arts may have a place (and that is debated) music has always been, from the beginning of creation when the morning stars sang for joy over creation to the new heavens and new earth where all creation joins the saints, elders and angels in praise to God..

We will avail ourselves of all the musical instruments and vocal gifts God has given us.

Musical instruments and musical abilities are a God given gift to be offered as spiritual sacrifices.

We will be free to use a wide diversity of musical styles.

We will not limit ourselves to a single style or ethnic type of music. We will be cautious about styles of music that are the edge of where sin and depravity are being expressed in our culture.

Vision

- Our Vision for Gathered Exaltation
 - Our gathered worship will be marked by glorifying God.
 - We will make God the center of our worship.
 - We will use thematic and musical movement to engage the worshipper and focus them on God.
 - We will be purposeful in the focus of different services and venues for worship.
 - We will elevate the message of our worship and not its musical form.
 - We will encourage and enable full participation by all worshippers, as much as able.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Our Vision for Gathered Exaltation

This is our vision to be gathered with purity and passion in our praise.

Our gathered worship will be marked by glorifying God.

We will magnify God, make Him look large in our eyes as we gather for worship.

We will make God the center of our worship.

Our worship will be about God in His revealing, redeeming and ruling works.

We will use thematic and musical movement to engage the worshipper and focus them on God.

Our intent in the music is to cause the congregation to worship God.

We will be purposeful in the focus of different services and venues for worship.

Our worship services will be shaped by intentional purposes that help define them and determine the music selected for them.

We will elevate the message of our worship and not its musical form.

In all the modern focus on style, we will spotlight the message and meaning of the music in worship.

We will encourage and enable full participation by all worshippers, as much as able.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord – we want everyone to praise God through worship, even if it may only be a joyful noise.

Vision

- Our Vision for Musical Excellence
 - We will strive for as much excellence in our worship and music as God gives the ability to do.
 - We will seek to use those in leading worship who are spiritually fit and musically able.
 - We will value the hymns of the past and the best of the new and contemporary.
 - We will recognize the growing ability of young or novice musicians giving them opportunities in worship.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Our Vision for Musical Excellence

This is our vision to do all things well for the glory of our great God.

We will strive for as much excellence in our worship and music as God gives the ability to do.

The Bible sets a high standard of excellence in all that is done in worship. We will, as much as we are able, strive to maintain a level of excellence that demonstrates our seriousness about our gladness in worship.

We will seek to use those in leading worship who are spiritually fit and musically able.

Spiritual qualifications will be primary – no spiritually unfit worship leader or musician, no matter how good they are musically, will be leading or accompanying worship.

We will value the hymns of the past and the best of the new and contemporary.

We aim intentionally to incorporate a blend of the best from the past and present. We will only use songs regardless of age, tradition or style that are true.

We will recognize the growing ability of young or novice musicians giving them opportunities in worship.

Our striving for excellence will not deter the use of novice musicians nor simple music. It will be foundation for giving beginning musician opportunities to grow and become comfortable in public settings.

Vision

- Our Vision for Ministry Experience
 - We will play and sing so as to focus attention on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - We will exhibit spiritual maturity as we select music and texts that respect, reflect and respond to the character of God and the content of Scripture.
 - We will be musicians who are first qualified in character and conduct, then able as musicians.
 - We will play and perform with God as our primary audience and the congregation as participants in worship.

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Our Vision for Ministry Experience

This is our vision for the attitude, ability and approach of the musicians themselves.

We will play and sing so as to focus attention on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We as musicians will do all we can to put Christ at the center of our leading, accompanying and performing so as not exhibit His glory and not our own.

We will exhibit spiritual maturity as we select music and texts that respect, reflect and respond to the character of God and the content of Scripture.

We as musicians will seek to honor the Biblical standards for the message and meaning of our musical selections.

We will be musicians who are first qualified in character and conduct, then able as musicians.

We as musicians will recognize the importance of our walk with God. We affirm that musical ability is a secondary qualification for musical ministry.

We will play and perform with God as our primary audience and the congregation as participants in worship.

We as musicians see God as our audience. We will reject the notion of worship as entertainment where the congregation is the audience and we are playing and performing for them.

Purpose

• Doxological Purpose

Exaltation is all that we do in terms of pursuing God in worship. This is the overarching purpose of the church. The church exists to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

• Purposes

We aim to worship with these as our primary purposes:

- *To savor the greatness of God, being delighted in all He is and has done.*
- *To show the supreme worth and value of God in all of life, being humbled by His mighty hand.*
- *To share the truth about God and our joy in God with one another, being filled with the Word of God.*
- *To sing with all our hearts to God and to one another, being filled by the Spirit.*

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- To sing with all our hearts to God and to one another, being filled by the Spirit.

Strategies

Praying for wisdom from above, we will seek to implement our worship and music mission, vision, purposes and values through the following means.

- Leadership
- Repertoire
- Congregational Worship
- Choir
- Special Music
- Concerts

Strategies

Praying for wisdom from above, we will seek to implement our worship and music mission, vision, purposes and values through the following means.

Leadership

The Worship and Music shall be overseen by a Pastor/Elder for Worship. The Pastor for Worship shall be responsible for the Scriptural soundness of the ministry, the general administration of the ministry and the organization of the worship services.

The Music Ministry shall be directed by a Chief Musician who shall be deacon qualified and an able musician. The Chief Musician will be responsible for music used in all the services, serving in whatever capacities and responsibilities as able and assigned by the Pastor for Worship. The Chief Musician may form teams to assist in leading worship, organizing the library of music and other ministry as needed.

Repertoire

We will establish a repertoire of music for congregational worship and guidelines for special music. We should always be asking, “Are the words true to the Word of God?” “Are the emotions invoked appropriate to the message and meaning?” “Is the experience described or commended God-honoring and God-pleasing?” We should also always be asking “Does this music focus our hearts and minds on Christ?” “Does this music minister?” “Is the music distracting us from the message?”

Congregational Worship

The congregational praise and worship will be the central vehicle to worship and exalt the Savior together. Congregational worship is the primary ministry of music in the gathered church. Our faith is a singing faith. It is nice to have choirs, worship teams, praise bands, soloists, etc. but we believe that congregational singing is the most important form of music in a Bible-believing church. It actively involves the sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, and even the monotones from all walks of life.

Scripture says “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”. So if we’re breathing we should be using that breath to praise Him! Our corporate worship should be vibrant, enthusiastic, alive and joyful, not mechanical, dull, or lifeless. If the singing is weak and uninspired, we should be asking one another, “Is there a lack of joy or satisfaction in Christ? Is this a sign that something is wrong?”

We also want to be sure that we are not using worship for wrong reasons. We will not do worship:

- To entertain visitors (or even members);
- Because it is traditional – we HAVE to sing because that’s what we always do;
- In order to fill time;
- To give latecomers a chance to find a seat;
- To give people a chance to stretch and look around to see who’s here
- To get people “warmed up” for the message or approach it as the “Music is just the preliminaries for the message”.

Strategies

Praying for wisdom from above, we will seek to implement our worship and music mission, vision, purposes and values through the following means.

- Leadership
- Repertoire
- Congregational Worship
- Choir
- Special Music
- Concerts

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Strategies (2)

Choir

The choir exists to worship and exalt the Savior as a larger group through music that is Christ-centered and musically more challenging than the average congregational music. The choir is not for everyone musically; there needs to be some modest musical talent. However, the message of the song is one of the highest priorities. The choir should be a worship-leading choir by setting the example in worship for others to follow when they are on the platform

Special Music

Special music will be used to worship and exalt the Savior as individuals and small groups with music that is Christ-centered and musically more challenging than the average congregational music or choir music. Special music is not for everyone musically; there needs to be some good musical talent. Great consideration should be given to the lyrical content. The words should be theologically correct and point the listeners to Christ. Special music is not a time to show off; however, if the Lord has gifted someone with a solo voice, they should be using their talents to their fullest potential to serve and honor Christ.

Concerts

Concerts at the Chapel are designed to worship and exalt the Savior with music that is Christ-centered and of the highest musical quality by gifted and skilled musicians. Again, these musicians should not be there to be showy, but to lead God's people in worship of the Composer and Creator of music and to edify and encourage believers.



Implementation Worship Services

Implementing this mission and vision into worship services is at the heart of this ministry. We have given careful thought to the aim and purpose as well as the actual format of our services.

Morning Worship

- Aim in Worship

The morning service centers around the grand themes of the Bible with an emphasis on all that we do together in worship: prayers, scripture reading, giving, singing and being ministered to by the choir and special music. It tends to be more formal but still blends the classical, the traditional hymns and the contemporary praise and worship songs.

- 2 Seasonal Formats

The service has two main formats: one during the choir season and one during the summer season.

Evening Worship

- *Closer Walk Service*

This service is designed to allow more upbeat tempo songs. Sometimes, there is a slower, more serious, more reflective tone. The services tend to more designed to see us together – walking together and worshipping together as God’s people.

- Worship Suites

Service is planned around 2 suites, special music and the ministry of the Word. Between the worship suites, we have a regular rotation of Sentences of Praise, Member Testimonies, Missions Pray and Proclaim, Prayer in Threes and Scripture Readings.

Other Services

- Conferences
- Celebrations

Ordinances

- Integral Part of the Service
- Varieties of Context and Expression



Implementation Worship Concerts

Thanksgiving Praise and Worship Services

We aim to express our thanksgiving to God through great praise and worship music as a congregation and with special music.

Advent/Christmas Cantata

We tell the story of the Advent and Incarnation through a cantata, through music and narration.

Cookies and Carols

We fellowship together in the music of the season, both religious and popular.

Resurrection Cantata

We tell the story of the death and resurrection through a cantata, through music and narration.

Resurrection Praise and Worship

We rejoice in the saving work of Christ in the death and resurrection through congregational and special music.

Festival of Favorites

We choose our favorite music and musicians and celebrate our relationship with God and one another in music.



Implementation Guest Concerts and Special Music

Focus in Musical Ministry

- To reverence God as we gather
- To reflect their worship back to God
- To respond to God through gifted musicians

Standards for Guest Musicians

- In their Theology
 - The doctrine and distinctives of the church
 - The worship philosophy of the church
- In their Ministry
 - A determination to honor God
 - A rejection of an entertainment mentality
- In their Musicality
 - A musical giftedness in service to God
 - A craft and art in their music



Implementation Worship Teams

Ministry Aims

- To lead as worshippers
- To lead in worship
- To lead with humility

Musical Abilities

- Generally able to read music
- Measure of technical proficiency
- Able to blend

Service Agenda

- Morning Worship Team – 4 part vocal – ladies and men
- Evening Worship Team – 3 part vocal – men and Chief Musician

Accompaniment

- General platform instruments
- Additional occasional instruments



Implementation Repertoire

Music and Message Standards

The Pastor for Worship and the Chief Musician select and review new music

Strive for truth in content, authenticity in experience and appropriateness in style

Planning and Ordering Selections

- In the Planning of the Services
 - AM Service – planned by Chief Musician
 - PM Service – planned by Pastor for Worship
- In the Purpose of the Services
 - The general theme of the service
 - The emotional tone of the service
 - The musical movement of the service
 - The preaching transition in the service

Music and Library Storage

- Libraries
 - Choir music is purchased, filed and re-used as needed.
 - Congregational music is copied and stored for re-use.
 - CCLIC License maintained.
- Librarian
 - Music Librarian – Beck Cook at the time of this writing

Conclusion

- All true worship is Godward
- All people are commanded to worship
- All worship is the overflow of the heart
- All worshippers are to be pleasing to the Lord

Conclusion

All true worship is Godward

- Godward worship delights in blessing God in praise
- Godward worship overflows in blessing for the worshipper

All people are commanded to worship

- The command to worship is universal
- The commended worship is by believers

All worship is the overflow of the heart

- Worship is from the heart which overflows into praise and life.
- Worship is something we *do*. It is an expression of the state of our hearts.

All worshippers are to be pleasing to the Lord

- Do you prepare your heart for worship?
- Do you participate wholeheartedly in worship?
- Do you promote worship that is pleasing to God?

