

I. THE CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY OF WHOLEHEARTED WORSHIPERS

- A. The Father's family is a singing, musical, worshipping family. When God is worshipped, he takes up residence by his Spirit. He shows up.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are enthroned on the praises of Israel. Ps. 22:3

- B. In John 4, Jesus went out of his way through Samaria to win back the heart of a wayward woman restoring her to what was in her heart but not manifesting in her life. Her worship of God had been quenched, her voice stifled and blocked...she needed her worship released.

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." John 4: 23-24

II. PSALM 145 – THE GREATNESS OF GOD AND THE NATURE OF HIS GREATNESS

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise [sabab] Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.. Ps. 145:3-4

- A. **Great is the Lord.** Worship should be a reflection of the object being worshipped. The rest of this Psalm and many other passages describe the greatness of God.

1. What is it that makes God Great?
 - a. His nature and character
 - (1) v. 5 – splendor of his majesty and wonderful works
 - (2) v. 6 – wonderous works
 - (3) v. 8 – gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, great in mercy
 - b. His acts

- B. **Greatly to be praised (hallel).** We God reveals himself to mankind, how should man respond in his praise (hallel)?

1. Man's commensurate response to the greatness of God shown us throughout the bible.
 - a. Revelation 4-5 – The greatness of God as seen in Revelation 4-5. God's throne, God gives man space, living creatures have access, lightning, thunder, great noises, the elders cast their crowns down
2. Wholeheartedness and wholehearted worship are the right responses for the greatness of God's revelation of himself. The greatness of God calls forth the greatness of man's response.

- C. ***His greatness is unsearchable.*** The best adoration of the Unsearchable is to own him to be so, and close the eyes in reverence before the excessive light of his glory. Not all the minds of all the centuries shall suffice to search out the unsearchable riches of God; he is past finding out; and, therefore, his deserved praise is still above and beyond all that we can render to him.
1. For all eternity we will be searching Him out and never come to the end of our revelation.
- D. ***One generation shall praise (shabach) they works to another.*** “Shabach” means one generation shouts (shabach) the goodness of God into and over the next generation. This is a shout of praise and is rowdy, energetic. It is also very often prophetic
- E. ***And shall declare thy mighty acts.*** The generations shall herein unite: together they shall make up an extraordinary history. Each generation shall contribute its chapter, and all the generations together shall compose a volume of matchless character.
1. The praise of the Lord enlarges the heart, and as it grows upon us our minds grow with it. God's works of goodness and acts of power make up a subject which all the eras of human story can never exhaust. We are not afraid that the incense will ever cease to burn upon the altars of Jehovah.

III. CFG’S CALLING TO SHABACH – THE POWER OF WHOLEHEARTED WORSHIP

6 Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. Rev. 4:6

2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. 4 Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” Rev. 15:2-4

- A. Worship as Adoration – Rev. 4. A worship that declares the greatness, the majesty of our God. It’s historic in nature. Expressing the truth of who our God is as he has shown himself to be.
- B. Worship as Spiritual warfare – Rev. 15. A worship that declares the power of God and His desire to act on behalf of the people of the earth. In this moment, worship becomes a weapon against the worldly systems of men driven by demonic darkness.
- C. Worship is place we inhabit not just a thing we do. In worship we take our place as God’s priestly people to declare the greatness of our God.
- D. I am unashamedly calling CFG as a congregation, it’s worship teams, to cultivate a wholehearted spirit of worship. I am calling our worship to focus for a season on “shabach” into and over the next generation.
 1. This means we must take seriously the need to press for encounter as a congregation in a fresh bold way that we have “something” to sing and shout out over/into the next gen.

