

1 - Read

Read Colossians 1:16-17 aloud. [Note: You may also wish to read Acts 2:42-47.]

2 - Consider

- 1) God's Design for Worship - Complete the sentence. God's design for worship has _____ at the center. What does that mean actually? Practically? In other words, what is the measure of or standard for true worship?
- 2) Style or Type of Worship - Consider this passage from Psalm 150.
 - [3] Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
 - [4] Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
 - [5] Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
 - [6] Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD! (Psalm 15:3-6).

Does this broaden not only your understanding but also your enjoyment of all types of worship? Consider your many experiences worshipping in a congregation. Perhaps at different churches. Perhaps in different denominations. Perhaps in different countries. Have there been times when you worshipped in a way unfamiliar to you, but you found it joyful, personal or powerful, true, and uplifting?

- 3) Word of Christ - Paul writes, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . ." (Colossians 1:16). Think about that. Who or what is the word of Christ? How do you *let it* dwell in you? Literally? Practically? And richly?
- 4) Jesus-Centered Worship - Jesus centered worship is:
 - a) Congregational - Look again at the verbs in Colossians 1:16. Teaching, admonishing, and singing. What does that mean? Why is it important? In other words, what is the importance, power, and value of worship in the congregation? To the Lord? To you? To others?

Can you think of a place and time when being part of congregational worship reminded you of who and what is true? Buoyed you? Sustained you? Uplifted you? Would you be willing to share that?

- b) Doxological - What does this mean? What is it not about? What is it about?
What is the result?
- 5) Jesus Anointed - Read Matthew 26:6-13. This is a beautiful story in so many ways. How does Jamie Brown use this woman's gift to Jesus, that is, her pouring "an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment" on his head, as an illustration of worship? What does her example mean to you and me? To our worship both on Sunday morning and whatever we do in word or deed (Colossians 3:17)?

3 - Reflection

Which of these questions resonates most with the struggles or growth areas you are currently experiencing in your walk of faith?

4 - Prayer

Gracious God and most merciful Father, you have granted us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word: Assist us with your Spirit, that the same Word may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up and edify us into the perfect dwelling place of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues: grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.