

Our Awareness of the Almighty

1 Chronicles 16: 7-14

Our text tonight follows a significant moment in the history of Israel. David reigned as king and had just brought the ark of God into Jerusalem. The ark represented the power and presence of God. David longed to have the ark within Jerusalem, and eventually within the Temple.

We know David was not allowed to build the Temple, but his desire to worship the Lord remained. Israel had fallen away from the Lord since the death of Samuel and there had been little corporate worship offered among them. Through his noble efforts, David sought to change that by bringing the ark to Jerusalem and instituting worship of the Lord.

Genuine worship isn't mandated or coerced, but naturally flows from a heart that is right with the Lord. I fear many churches are lacking genuine worship. I want to look at the [principles](#) of worship David offers in this psalm of praise as we consider: [Our Awareness of the Almighty](#).

I. Our Approach to the LORD (8) – Worship cannot be offered without approaching the Lord. David offers insight into our approach. It involves:

A. Our Thanksgiving (8a) – [Give thanks unto the LORD](#). This is a simple statement that reveals great truth. David knew God had been good to him and all the people of Israel. He was aware of their rich history and the continued blessings of God. It was unfathomable to approach the Lord in worship apart from thanksgiving for His innumerable blessings.

- There is no doubt that we too are blessed beyond measure. We are aware of that, and occasionally we offer our gratitude to the Lord, but we must offer thanksgiving unto the Lord if we are to experience genuine worship. A heart of humble gratitude is essential to achieving worship.

B. Our Trust (8b) – [call upon his name](#). Again David offers a principle most were familiar with. I am sure the majority of Israelites prayed unto the Lord, calling upon His name, but I sense a greater emphasis here. David reveals that genuine worship is given in full expectation of God hearing and answering our prayers. He challenged the people to pray unto the Lord, fully trusting Him to meet their needs and move in their lives.

- We too need this reminder. Prayer is an important part of our worship services and is given a place of prominence, but this involves more than the uttering of prayers. This deals with the heart and attitude of prayer. As we come before the Lord in worship, praying unto Him, may we do so with assurance, expecting the Lord to hear and answer when we pray! If we approach God

from a heart of dependence, recognizing His great power as we expect Him to meet our need, we are well on our way to worshiping in a way that honors Him.

C. Our Testimony (8c) – [make known his deeds among the people](#). David challenges the people to tell others of God's goodness in their lives. God had blessed each of them, so they were expected to share with others what God had done for them. Simply, tell somebody what the Lord had done!

- I love to hear God's people tell of His goodness. I love to hear folks testify of their salvation experience. I love to hear folks brag on the Savior. It is apparent that the Lord desires and expects that as well. We must be willing to tell what God has done for us. It doesn't have to be a twenty minute exposition, just a simple testimony of grace and gratitude. One of the greatest testimonies ever spoken is simply: I want to thank the Lord for saving me! That is making known the deeds of the Lord among the people. If it has been a while, or maybe you have never testified of God's goodness, I challenge you to give it a try. I am confident you will have a desire to do so again!

II. Our Applause to the LORD (9-10) – As David continues to lead the people toward genuine worship, he addresses our applause to the LORD. He speaks of:

A. Our Worship (9) – [Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works](#). This may sound silly, but we will never achieve worship until we worship. David was aware of that. He had not called the people together for a social gathering. They weren't there to simply converse with one another and pass time. They had come together in order to worship. David challenged them to actively engage in what they had come to do! They were to sing songs of praise and adoration, lifting up the name of the Lord. They were to talk of His wondrous and mighty works. This likely has a couple applications. We have already discussed personal testimonies, telling others of God's goodness. That would certainly apply, but I also believe David is speaking of public proclamation and biblical instruction. The proclamation of the Word was essential to worship also.

- There is a lot being labeled worship today that misses the principles of worship. It is good to fellowship with one another. I am certainly thankful for the family of God, and I enjoy our fellowship together, but we have not merely met for a social gathering. I pray you aren't here just to have a bit of conversation with someone before or after the service. I hope you aren't here out of mere obligation. I pray we have met to worship the Lord through songs of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, and the public proclamation of the Word. If we are going to achieve worship, we must desire and engage in worship!

B. Our Wonder (10) – *Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.* David had reason to glory in the Lord. This has the idea of “*boasting, to shine, to praise, and even shout.*” He was not boasting in himself or his accomplishments, but in the power and mercies of the Lord. David had faced great adversity and God had delivered Him. He desired to exalt the Lord. In fact, he couldn’t help but praise the Lord for all He had done. As David pondered the awesome power and gracious mercies of the Lord, he was compelled to worship.

- We will never genuinely worship without a sense of the awesome power and presence of God. Surely He has been good to each of us. If He never offered another blessing, I have received far more than I deserve. He bore my sin on the cross, providing for my redemption. He saved me by His grace and has promised eternal life and a home in heaven. As I ponder all He is, standing in awe and wonder of Him, I must glory in the Lord and rejoice in Him!

III. Our Allegiance to the LORD (11-14) – As we conclude our study, we discover David’s admonition to remain faithful to the Lord. Worship will never be accomplished apart from faithfulness. If our hearts are not right with the Lord, we cannot worship. Notice:

A. Our Commitment (11) – *Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.* David understood the need for continued dependence and a continual desire for the Lord. Their lives must be lived in light of the Lord. They were to seek Him daily, desiring a closer walk with God.

- Much worship today is shallow and lacking because many lives are shallow and lacking. We cannot expect to attend services at the house of God without any fellowship with the Lord prior to our arrival and expect to achieve worship. Outward worship is simply the overflow of inward fullness. If we are to worship on Sunday, we must be committed to walking with the Lord on Monday and continuing throughout the week.

B. Our Consideration (12) – *Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;* Worship requires a proper attitude and remembrance. David challenged the people to ponder the marvelous works of the Lord, the great wonders He performed, and even the mighty judgments He proclaimed. He knew if they would ponder the Lord, worship would follow.

- There are no secret formulas for worship. It can’t be categorized by hitting certain marks as we move through a service. It can’t be worked up or manipulated, but it can be achieved. One of the greatest ways to obtain worship is simply to consider the Lord. I assure you, if we will earnestly ponder the Lord and His mighty works, we will be compelled to worship. Those who are

saved can't honestly consider the sacrifice Jesus made and the great provision He affords apart from worship. If you begin to ponder Jesus, worship will follow!

C. Our Connection (13) – *O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.* In order to create an attitude of worship, David simply reminds them of their status with the Lord. He reminds them they are the seed of Israel, children of Jacob, the chosen of God. They were His people and had the privilege and responsibility to worship.

- Now I realize we are not in that number. Physically we are not the children of Jacob, the seed of Israel. However, we are the redeemed of God. We are the body of Christ, His purchased possession. I have access to the throne of grace through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am now a partaker of the divine inheritance. That stirs my heart to worship. I was sinful and undeserving, and yet Christ died in my place. He saved me and now my name is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. That alone is reason to worship the Lord and rejoice!

D. Our Confidence (14) – *He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.* David had faced a lot but he had never been forsaken. Every promise God had made, He had fulfilled. The world around him may have changed, but God never did. He had trusted the eternal God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. There was no fear as long as he walked with the Lord.

- We too can claim that promise. God has not changed. He is the same God today as He was then. Whatever we face in life, God remains in control. The saved are secure in Christ; our eternal destiny is settled. With such confidence in the Lord, we ought to desire to praise Him. He is worthy of our commitment, confidence, and our worship. He has never failed us and He never will. Praise Him for His many blessings!

Conclusion: This has been an encouraging passage to consider. It has also challenged me in regard to genuine worship. Surely the children of God will have a desire to worship. I trust you have come for that purpose this evening.

How long has it been since you genuinely worshiped the Lord? If it has been a while, do you not think it's about time? Maybe you need to come and bow before Him tonight in worship. Maybe you have never been saved and can't worship. If so, I urge you to respond to the call of Christ in salvation and come to Him.