

Exploring the heart of worship: stripping away every distraction

Living the Passion — Sunday 25th October, 9.15am.

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Introduction

The heart of worship is **our response to divinely revealed truth about God.**

We need to strip away “everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles”. (Hebrews 12:1)

I. The power of music

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

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Is our church worship more than a therapeutic sing-along?

Where is it directing our gaze? At ourselves or God?

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Revelation 4 v 8)

2. Idolatry

Appreciating a performer with applause, and then looking at the worship context.

Where did the worship direct our gaze? Idolatry reveals a faulty understanding of God's glory and awesomeness.

I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. (Isaiah 42 v 8)

3. Identity

Question: why do you think things are going well for you at the moment?

The danger of believing we've earned God's favour, or thinking God is withdrawing his blessing because we have been bad. Both attitudes are equally wrong.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5 v 8)

He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103 v 10)

God's answer to “why the suffering?” — Look at me as creator.

God's answer to “When everything is stripped away, who am I, God?” — You are perfectly and unconditionally loved.

Summary and Q and A.