

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

February 26, 2012

HOW TO PRAY SPECIFICALLY
FOR THIS WEEK...

Sunday's Sermon

1. Pray for those who will lead in worship this week:
 - Pastor J. Josh Smith
 - Bryant Jones and the MBBC Music Ministry
2. Pray that as we gather God will give us ears to hear, eyes to see, minds to understand, and hearts to obey!
3. Pray that we will be engaged in the mission of God, as a church and in our personal lives!
4. Pray that we're sharing the gospel and seeing the fruit of our efforts, people being saved and lives changed for the glory of Jesus Christ!

This Sunday we begin a new series of messages titled *Living the Mission*. This series is intended to be a practical follow-up to our *Mission Matters* series. In the *Mission Matters* series we wanted to clearly articulate the mission of God and His plan for us to engage in His mission. But the question now is, "How?" How can we engage in the mission of God? This is the goal of the series.

We begin this Sunday by looking at the foundation for this series from 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. Begin preparing by carefully and prayerfully reading these verses. Focus specifically on verses 17-20. What do these verses tell us about our place in God's mission? What is God calling us to as his reconciled people? What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

As stated previously, the whole point of this series is that we might know how to practically LIVE the mission. As we begin this new series, please pray that God will ignite within every member of our church a passion for His mission. Pray that we might all learn to LIVE the mission.

SONGS OF WORSHIP

This Sunday's Music

As we prepare for the moment of corporate worship, spend time meditating on the lyrics from some of our songs of worship.

Pslam 24

By Anita Wesley, Cynthia Wesley,
and Teri Wesley
Feat. the MBBC Choir & Orchestra

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

By Joachim Neander

O God Our Help

By Isaac Watt, William Croft,
and Tommy Walker

Immortal, Invisible

By John Roberts
and Walter Chalmers Smith

Wonderful Savior

By Trent Cory and Aaron Lindsey
Feat. the MBBC Choir & Orchestra

O God Our Help In Ages Past

VERSE 1

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home

VERSE 2

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure
Sufficient is Thine arm alone
And our defense is sure

CHORUS

O God You are
You are our help You are our helper
To all generations You will be
Forever and ever
Our Shield and our Eternal Hope
O Lord You are the Ancient of Days
And worthy of our praise
You are the Ancient of Days
And worthy of our praise

VERSE 3

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Be Thou our guide while life shall last
And our eternal home

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

VERSE 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible, Hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise

VERSE 2

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love

VERSE 3

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all
We blossom and flourish, as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee

VERSE 4

Great Father of glory, Pure Father of light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee

RESPONDING TO WORSHIP

Sunday's Sermon

In response to Sunday's message, take time to think about these truths and the response questions.

Truth: When we are reconciled with God by trusting in Christ and submitting to Him, we are made into new creations. As a new creation, we are given a new calling. This new calling is not just something we are commanded to do; it flows out of who we are as new creations.

Truth: By the means of being reconciled with God, we become new creations. This means that we become something we have never been before but that which we were always created to be. We are born again. We are raised from death to life. We no longer love sin; we hate sin. We have the mind of Christ, the Spirit of Christ, the blessing of Christ, and the sonship of Christ. In every way we are spiritually reborn.

Truth: This new spiritual reality comes with new responsibilities. As new creations, we have a new calling. This calling flows out of who we are as new creations. The calling is to be an ambassador for Christ. Every new creation is an ambassador. An ambassador is a minister of reconciliation and exists to make Christ appealing to the world.

Truth: The primary calling and ambition of a new creation is to lead people to trust and follow Christ (to be messengers of reconciliation).

Response: We cannot embrace the reality of being a new creation without embracing the responsibility of the new calling. In other words, we were not reborn just to enjoy the new life, but to spread the new life. Have you embraced the call that comes with your new life in Christ?

Response: Because the single, primary purpose of a new creation is to live out the calling to be an ambassador for Christ, any believer who does not embrace that calling misses the primary point of being a new creation.

Response: Since we will all stand before God and give an account for how faithful we were with our calling, ask the Lord to help you to embrace your calling as your primary ambition in life. Begin today rearranging your life to make your calling primary.

Leading Your Family in Worship this Week

"Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

Every week we will be providing a suggestion that you can use to lead in Family Worship time in your home through "Splink."

It's a FREE weekly email packed with ideas to help connect your family. Splinks are creative ways of interacting with your children with family devotional starters and ideas for family time. Splinks can also help you use teachable moments to pass along spiritual truths and life lessons while making memories or just having fun together. No matter where you are, there is always time for a Splink!

There is also a wonderful index if you need to find suggestions for specific topics.

Visit the site to subscribe to and download resources for family worship:

<http://d6family.com/splink/week/2012-2-19>

BENEDICTION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY
Thomas Ken