PREPARATION REQUIRED FOR WORSHIP

I Timothy 2:8-10

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"There is one major thing which is often forgotten in all the discussion which takes place about the content of public worship. That is the need for God's people to approach the Lord in a holy and reverent manner. It used to be said that worshippers ought to prepare themselves for the Sunday services on Saturday evening. However, so many young believers today seem to spend Saturday evenings (and even the early hours of Sunday) in hectic activities. It is not surprising, in such cases, that they often have difficulty in keeping their eyes open during the preaching of God's Word. If the liveliness of the previous night has dominated all their thoughts and energy, then it is no wonder that they are not in a fit state to come before the Lord in a solemn manner at the time of worship." Michael Bentley

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Why is preparation for public gatherings of believers and specifically corporate worship necessary and what might it include?

- If participant & not spectator requires preparation
- Need time to distinguish holy from profane
- If God called us to do this, then He has purposes – waste of resources/dishonoring God if don't accomplish these purposes
- How contribute to unity of whole with purpose
- Pattern to prepare – fits with holy character of God
- If prepared, more useful to the others, let alone for service to God
- Jm. 4:4-10 centers worship on God, for God, not us

Includes:

- Meditate/mindful – who God is, needs of those worshipping
- Browse Scripture passages

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I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

I. Come to Worship with a Heart Right Toward God and ALL Those He has Placed in Your World v. 8

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I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for help,
When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

Psalm 28:2

"Arise, cry aloud in the night At the beginning of the night watches; Pour out your heart like water Before the presence of the Lord; Lift up your hands to Him For the life of your little ones Who are faint because of hunger At the head of every street."

Lamentations 2:19

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. 4 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Psalm 63:3–4

May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

Psalm 141:2

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Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

Psalm 24:3–4

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"Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; 20 when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the LORD. 21 "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."

Exodus 30:19–21

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Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

PREPARATION REQUIRED FOR WORSHIP
I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

“I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 “So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. 16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow. 18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. 19 “If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; 20 “But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.” Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 1:14–20

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PREPARATION REQUIRED FOR WORSHIP
I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

Psalm 66:18

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8

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Now what would you add to preparation needed for public worship and the prayer prescribed in vv. 1-7 based on verse 8a?

- Clear line between obedience and disobedience according to God's Word (action, attitude)
- High cost for your redemption – am I aware and seeking to do what He saved me to do?
- Awareness that just okay is not okay

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If lifting holy hands in prayer involves your attitudes and relationships with others, what would preparation for public, gathered worship include?

- Phil. 2, Rom. 12 – humility/others first for God's sake

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I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23 “Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Matthew 5:22–24

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I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31–32

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Colossians 3:8, 13

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I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

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PREPARATION REQUIRED FOR WORSHIP
I TIMOTHY 2:8-10

“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:11

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Malachi 1:11

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:9–12

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To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

1 Corinthians 1:2

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

2 Corinthians 2:14

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But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 2 Corinthians 2:14

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:8–10

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I. Come to Worship with a Heart Right Toward God and ALL Those He has Placed in Your World v. 8

II. Come to Worship Focused on the One to be Honored and the Work to which He has called you. vv. 9-10

Preparation Required for Worship

I Timothy 2:8-10 CBC, Wednesday, August 31, 2022 441 Take Time to Be Holy

Paul now continues with focus on how they worship together in light of this focus in their prayers; first men, then women—if WHO God is determines WHAT pray for—His desire, becomes ours, then WHO God is also determines HOW we ask Him for provision—Lord's prayer—hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done—fellowship with Him determines life and worship together—start w worship together, moves out to rest of life "There is one major thing which is often forgotten in all the discussion which takes place about the content of public worship. That is the need for God's people to approach the Lord in a holy and reverent manner. It used to be said that worshippers ought to prepare themselves for the Sunday services on Saturday evening. However, so many young believers today seem to spend Saturday evenings (and even the early hours of Sunday) in hectic activities. It is not surprising, in such cases, that they often have difficulty in keeping their eyes open during the preaching of God's Word. If the liveliness of the previous night has dominated all their thoughts and energy, then it is no wonder that they are not in a fit state to come before the Lord in a solemn manner at the time of worship." Michael Bentley p. 85 Why is preparation for public gatherings of believers and specifically corporate worship necessary and what might it include? What are goals; ARE those goals merely superficial—be there, stand/sit, smile, sing, pray, listen?

I. Come to Worship with a Heart Right Toward God and ALL Those He has Placed in Your World v. 8

First men [8] Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.
Not suggestion, this is directive as come to worship together--Men—why?, following Jewish synagogue custom, men are given responsibility to lead the church and its worship service v. 12, 3:2, 5, 4:11-16, 5:17, women had to sit in the back or in the gallery—keep quiet; look after the children and observe (Bentley); not b/c only ones who pray publicly, no ie. I Cor. 11:1ff., Acts 1:14 —every place probably means different gatherings of the church; lifting up holy hands, Not just prayer, but HOW that prayer given—OT background Ps. 28:2, Lam. 2:19 need, dependence, Psalm 63:3-4, Ps. 141:2 worship (we under, you worthy)—combine with holy—Ps. 24:3-4 (handwashing signified purity—ie. Priests did b/r entering Tent of Meeting Ex. 30:19-21), II Tim. 2:22, mind and body not driven by flesh/YOU at center—so talking about actions resulting from impure heart; Knight notes that hands tied w prayer, but that they are "prime agent for human activities, that with which a person acts" p. 129 (inappropriate/dishonoring to come b/r God in prayer—worship/need w heart/actions dirty) wrong/right presented Is. 1:14-20, Ps. 66:18, James 4:8; talking about not just purity, but complete devotion to God, committed to His service; b/r get to specific application of this condition—NOW what would you add to preparation needed for public worship and the prayer prescribed in vv. 1-7? We are vessels/ambassadors II Cor. 5 of God—come before Him recognizing His holiness—respect, worthy of working through attitudes that contradict His holiness (my agenda—church, then eat, sleep, finish my goals; His kingdom—rule, reign—what does He care about in the things I contemplate?) specifically here, you will be out of line if come to public worship/pray without wrath and dissension. Talking about attitudes/actions that are hard on relationships thriving—anger (injustice, out of line) if truly wrong, start w forgiveness (Matt. 5:22-24, Eph. 4:31-32, Col. 3:8, 13) vertical forgiveness—release to God to deal w finally—free then to pray for, look for opportunities for reconciliation w/o demanding payment from you—then any discipline/judgment can be done under God, for Him, for them; dissension—thoughts/opinions clashing in ways that division; men leading, praying—not with demeanor, actions characterized by strife/dissension (paraphrase Knight); focus of holy here on the specific sins of men "that most affect their prayer for others by setting barriers between them and God" p. 130 cf. I Pet. 3:7—if NOT to listen to, encourage, pass on false teachers, then NOT saying agree w everyone, then what do you hear called for with preparation for public, gathered worship that involves your attitudes and relationships with others?

Exodus 30:19–21 "Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; [20] when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire *sacrifice* to the LORD. [21] "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."
Psalm 24:3–4 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? [4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.
Psalm 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for help, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.
Psalm 63:3–4 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. [4] So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.
Psalm 66:18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;
Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.
Isaiah 1:14–20 "I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing *them.* [15] "So when you spread out your hands *in prayer,* I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. [16] "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, [17] Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow. [18] "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. [19] "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; [20] "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword." Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Lamentations 2:19 “Arise, cry aloud in the night At the beginning of the night watches; Pour out your heart like water Before the presence of the Lord; Lift up your hands to Him For the life of your little ones Who are faint because of hunger At the head of every street.”
Malachi 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name *will be* great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering *that is* pure; for My name *will be* great among the nations,” says the LORD of hosts.
Matthew 5:22–24 “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell. [23] “Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.
Ephesians 4:31–32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. [32] Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
Colossians 3:8, 13 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. [13] bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:
2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.
1 Thessalonians 1:8–10 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. [9] For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, [10] and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
2 Timothy 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
1 Peter 2:9–12 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God’s* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; [10] for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. [11] Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. [12] Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them,* glorify God in the day of visitation.
1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.