

THE BEACON



WORSHIP TIME

Sunday School - 9:00 AM

Worship Service - 10:10 AM

Isiah 60:1

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11/1 - Covered Dish Luncheon
- 11/1 - Conregational Business Meeting
- 12/6 - Christmas Caroling (12:30 PM)
- 12/13 - Christmas Breakfast
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service with Communion
- 12/25 - Christmas Day



READY FOR HEAVEN?

“I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven.” – A. W. Tozer

When I first read those words, I had to sit with them for a while. Tozer had a way of cutting through nonsense. He could say something in one sentence that forces us to examine ourselves far more deeply than we expected.

And I do not think his statement is merely about whether we enjoy a particular worship service on Sunday morning. It presses into something much deeper. Do we actually desire God? Do we really want the eternity Scripture describes? Are we being prepared now for the life we say we long for then?

If we are honest, most of us have had Sundays when we simply did not feel like going. We were tired. We were busy. The sermon did not particularly excite us. The songs were not our favorites. Something else sounded more appealing.

There will be seasons of spiritual dryness in the life of a genuine Christian. There will be mornings when we come to worship tired, distracted, burdened, or simply not feeling particularly enthusiastic. That does not automatically mean we do not love Christ. But there is a difference between struggling through a dry season and becoming comfortable with indifference toward the things of God. That is where Tozer’s warning begins to sting.

Sometimes people will say, “I do not really need church. I worship God better on my boat down at the lake,” or while walking through the woods, or sitting with coffee beside a favorite window with a book. And certainly, we can worship God in those places. We should. The whole earth belongs to Him. The problem comes when private enjoyment of God becomes an excuse to neglect the gathered people of God.

There is something God does when His people gather to pray, sing, hear His Word, encourage one another, confess together, and turn their attention away from themselves and toward Him. If we continually find ourselves preferring almost anything to that, perhaps there is something worth examining.

This brings then to the mind a word from C. S. Lewis who once observed that human beings naturally praise what they enjoy. Think about how easily that happens. I mean, watch someone talk about their favorite team after a great game. Listen to grandparents talking about their grandchildren. Watch someone describe a place they love to visit. No one has to force the praise out of them.

Delight naturally spills over into expression. And perhaps that is part of what Tozer is getting at. What do our lives reveal about what we actually delight in? It is possible to display far more enthusiasm for the Sunday afternoon football game than we showed earlier that morning while worshiping Christ. The point is not that football is bad. The point is that our excitement reveals something about our affections.

And that leads to an uncomfortable but important question: if the thought of glorifying God seems dull to us now, why would we imagine that an eternity centered upon His presence would suddenly become desirable?

Upon further reflection, I suspect many Christians have at some point wondered, “Won’t heaven get boring?” I understand those kinds of thoughts. But we can be assured that scripture certainly gives us reason to believe that eternity will involve far more than something resembling an endless Sunday morning worship service. There will be life. There will be fellowship. There will be service. There will be the renewed creation.

But at the center of all of it will still be God. That is the part we cannot miss. The great hope of heaven is not simply that pain and death ends. It is not merely that suffering disappears, and that we are reunited with people we love. The great treasure of eternity is that we will be with Christ.

The Heidelberg Catechism begins with this beautiful confession: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Answer: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood.... So all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life with Him.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism condenses this question from the Heidelberg confession and asks, "What is the chief end of man?" and answers, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." That second part matters. Not merely to glorify Him, but to enjoy Him. Forever! We were made for God. We were made to know Him, to love Him, to delight in Him, and to glorify Him.

And yet sin has deeply distorted those desires. Sin does not remove our capacity to worship. It redirects it. We begin giving ultimate attention, affection, excitement, and loyalty to things that were never meant to carry that weight. We worship comfort. We worship success. We worship entertainment. We worship approval. We worship ourselves.

And then the God for whom we were created can begin to seem strangely uninteresting. That is the tragedy of sin. But Christ Reorders Our Loves This is also where the gospel gives us hope. Christ does not merely command us to try harder to enjoy worship. He changes us. He gives new life. He begins to reorder our loves. He teaches us to desire what is good, true, and eternal.

That work is not completed overnight. There may still be mornings when we come into worship tired. There may still be seasons when our hearts feel dull. There may even be moments when we sing words our emotions have not yet caught up with. But the question is not whether we feel spiritual excitement every moment. The question is whether Christ is gradually turning our hearts toward Himself.

Are we learning to hunger for His Word? Are we learning to treasure the gathering of His people? Are we learning to pray when we would rather distract ourselves? Are we learning to worship not simply because we are obligated to, but because somewhere along the way we are beginning to realize that Christ truly is worthy?

That is why I do not think Tozer's words should sting. Rather his words should awaken us and reflect. His words should invite us to examine what we love. And if we discover that our affections have grown cold, the answer is not to pretend. It is to draw near again. Pray honestly, "Lord, teach me to delight in You."

Come to worship even when you do not feel like coming. Sing even when the emotions are slow to follow. Listen. Pray. Participate. Look again at Christ. Remember what He has done. Because the more clearly we see Him, the less strange worship becomes.

So we do not ask ourselves plainly, "Am I ready for heaven?" Perhaps instead ask: Do I want the One who makes heaven, heaven? Because paradise without Christ would not truly be paradise at all. And if eternity is life in His presence, then perhaps part of our preparation for heaven is already happening every time we learn, even imperfectly, to say:

Christ is worthy. Christ is enough. And I want more of Him he is my delight. ~ Pastor Cody

CHURCH HISTORY

100 Years ago:

1.Springville Congregation assembled in council this 20th day of December, 1926 with Elder I.W. Taylor presiding. The meeting opened by Brother Evan M. Dinger with song No. 252 followed by prayer.

2.First in order was the matter concerning the stone road around the Cocalico House. The trustees reported the road is finished.

3.It was decided that 3 of the 5 stalls of the sheds at the Cocalico House that had been blown over should be erected again and supported by guide wires so it may better withstand such storms.

4.The committee composed of three brethren as follows: Rufus Royer, Morris Mohler and Amos Heisey which has been appointed to find what Brother William Keller owes the Reddig estate reported and was accepted. The report is as follows: We as a committee in regards to the William Keller and Reddig affair have prayerfully investigated it and have with the best of our knowledge decided it. We have examined each party separate to avoid any dispute that might arise. We have come to the conclusion that Brother Keller owes the Reddig estate $352.00 without interest. That this to be satisfactory without anyone asking the committee any questions. It was reported by Brother Harry Keller that the Reddig estate extended ample time to Brother William Keller to make settlement to which he agreed.

5.The following brethren were reappointed as trustees for the following church houses for 3 years: Mohler House – Simon Hertzog, Blainesport House – Joel Fasnacht, Denver House – Monroe Longenecker, Cocalico House – Isaac Fasnacht

6.The Sisters Aid Society reported they met about once a week in 1926 at the home of Sister Alice Heffley where the following work was done with an average of 6 sisters present. They quilted 23 quilts, 1 comfort, 91 aprons, 21 baby sleep sacks, 155 handkerchief bags and 54 bonnets.

7. Report of church treasurer, Rufus Royer, is as follows: Received during 1926 plus balance on hand of the previous years $5,158.01. Paid out $4,680.66. Balance in bank $477.01.

8. The trustees of each house are appointed as ushers and in case of funerals or other occasions where some may be unable to serve for any reason, they are here by authorized to appoint someone in their stead.

9 The church decided to paint the interior of the Mohler House and make the necessary repairs to the windows.

10. It was agreed to make a stone road around the Mohler House. The trustees are authorized to make as they see fit.

11. The trustees are authorized to move the men's toilet at the Mohler House to a more favorable place.

12. Brother Aaron Gibbel has been authorized to get 80 "New Hymnals" for the Denver House.

13.The church granted the request of Brother Jacob Hackman not to hold him any longer as a member, owing to the pride existing in the church, as he stated.

14.An excellent admonition against pride has been given by our Elder in Charge I.W. Taylor.

15.Sunday School officers and teachers for 1927: Brethren Bible Class – Jacob Leininger and Evan Dinger, Sisters Bible Class – John L. Myer and J. Bitzer Johns, Young Peoples Bible Class – Amos Heisey and Erla Myer, Advanced Class – D.M. Royer and Daniel Brubaker, Intermediate Boys – Anna Keller and Howard Kreider, Intermediate Girls – Mabel Ebersole and Anna Kreider, Primary Class – Lyda Zug and Kathryn Wenger, Beginners Class – Ida Leininger and Anna Mohler, Treasurer – Israel Mohler, Secretaries – Norman Leininger and Grace Dinger, Choristers – John Myer, Ella Longenecker and Mazie Graybill

16.Harry Gibbel was baptized on November 25, 1926. Harry served as Deacon from 1943 to 1952 when he was called to the ministry at Springville. He died in 1993.

75 Years ago:

On November 11, 1951, Anna M. Newswanger (Ginder) was received as a member by baptism.

PLACE YOUR LIFE BEFORE GOD

Romans 12:1-2 (Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going to work and walking around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does foryou is the best thing you cando for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attending on God. You'll be changed frmthe inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity. God brings the besty out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Transition from Fall to Winter

Just when we've finished raking the last of autumn's colorful leaves, winter comes knocking with frosty mornings, chilly winds, and the promise of snowflakes! The pumpkins are disappearing, the squirrels are stocking their pantries, and we're digging through closets wondering where we put those winter gloves! Before long, we'll be trading our leaf rakes for snow shovels and our pumpkin spice for hot chocolate. Through it all, God reminds us that every season has its own special beauty and blessings. So, as we say goodbye to fall and welcome winter, let's embrace the changing seasons with thankful hearts, warm smiles, and perhaps an extra pair of socks! After all, God is in charge of the seasons—but He never promised we'd agree with the forecast!


Psalm 42:2
MY SOUL
THIRSTETH
FOR GOD
FOR THE
LIVING GOD