

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, November 25, 2018

**A Lifestyle that Honors God
A Study of Psalm 95**

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Describe a time you ran out of gas.

What changes did you make to yourself to never run out of gas again?

Worship is like fuel for the obedient life: It's absolutely essential! But a fueled-up car that doesn't go anywhere isn't useful, either. So, we need to worship God "in here" on Sundays but also obey God "out there" in every hour of life. This is the lesson of Psalm 95: ***Worship is true only if it leads to obedience; and obedience lasts only if it is fueled by worship.***

Worship Him in Here!

Gordon Dahl wrote, "Most middle-class Americans worship their work, work at their play, and play at their worship." Do you find that true? Explain.

Verses 1-7 give worshippers our ***calling***, our ***reason***, and our ***mindset***.

First: The Call to Worship

Read Psalm 95:1-2.

Like many psalms, this psalm encourages us to use music to worship God. How does music enhance the emotional impact of true words? How does it help us recall true words?

When he says, "Come let us worship," is he inviting believers? Non-believers? Both?

What believers could you invite back to worship in the month of December? What non-believers could you invite?

Second: The Reasons for Our Worship

Read Psalm 95:3-5.

In verse 3, the poet says God is “above all gods.” Most of us don’t run the risk of worshipping other gods today, but what do we risk putting ahead of the living God? In what ways do we put these things ahead of God?

In verses 4 and 5, what part of God’s “anatomy” is referenced? How does this help us understand God’s sustaining control over what he has created?

In worship, we remind each other of God’s attributes and abilities. Why do we need to be regularly reminded of these?

Third: The Mindset Required for Worship

Read Psalm 95:6-7a.

What mindset leads worshippers to bow and kneel?

Why did the Psalmist compare people to sheep and what mindset is he describing?

Obey Him Out There!

Read Psalm 95:7b-11.

What do you understand “if only you would hear his voice” to mean? Does it indicate a personal choice?

When God speaks what does He expect?

Verse 8 mentions something that happened at Meribah and Massah. What happened there? (See Exodus 17:1-7)

What can cause a hardened heart?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and answer the following questions.

- ❖ According to verses 8-9, what are “works” unable to achieve for us?
- ❖ According to verse 10, what are people who are saved by grace called to do?
- ❖ Faith is “resting” in what Jesus has done for us, and yet in our **rest** he calls us to **work** toward holy living. How can both of these things be true at the same time?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests