

# At-home Bible Study:

## What about worship?

For most of 2020, our worship lives have looked different than at any point in 2019. In some ways, worship has looked a little different. In some ways, worship has looked very different. And in some ways, worship hasn't changed at all.

For several months, we were not able to meet together for worship at our church building. Our leadership suspended our public worship gatherings, so there was no option to gather at our building. For some who are in an at-risk health group and judge themselves to be at a great risk for contracting COVID in our worship space, public worship continues to be not an option.

What does God say about it? How does God want our worship in the age of COVID to be a blessing for us?

### Today: Are worship preferences okay?

"Just try a bite of it," a mother says to her young child at the dinner table. Every once and a while, the child who curled their nose and turned away from their plate and even shed tears at the thought of eating what was in front of them discovers that they actually like the food. During our worship at home times, we may have discovered that we really like some aspects of it, and maybe even prefer some aspects of at home worship.

List any things you found that you really liked about at home worship:

If all things were equal, and having experienced at-home worship, would you choose at-home worship over in person worship in our church building? Read  **Hebrews 10:25**. What does God say about that?

Again, it is important to note that for a time, corporate (the whole body, i.e., our whole church family) worship was ***not an option***. For those who sincerely believe the health risks put them in grave danger in our public worship environment, public worship remains ***not an option***.

Our at-home worship experiences, while continuing to focus on Christ and his love for, continuing to focus on God's Word, also brought contrasts to our in-person worship experiences. Compare your at-home worship with our in-person worship in these areas:

- Worship time
- Worship attire
- Worship space refreshments
- Length of worship
- Elements of our liturgies (the parts that make up each worship service)
- Number of hymns
- Type of music

We might have a preference in each area. That's okay! God does not forbid us from having worship preferences, such as having favorite hymns! In our preferences, though, we must be extremely careful, because the devil wants to use them to lead us into sin.

Read  **Philippians 2:3-4**. Making sure worship is how you prefer it should not be your primary concern. What should matter more than your preferences?

Read  **1 Corinthians 14:12**. Again, making sure worship is how you prefer it should not be your primary concern. What should matter more than your preferences?

Read  **Philippians 2:14-16**. What does God warn us against doing (which is very easy to do when worship doesn't match our preferences)?

God's Word refocuses on what matters and on where the true blessings in worship lie. Read  **Romans 1:16-17**. Where is the power in worship?

That passage was an important one for Martin Luther—and it should be for us too—because it shows the essence of salvation before God, a righteousness that comes by faith. The perfect righteousness of Jesus now covers you by faith. That's power. That's how we are saved from our sins. That's the Gospel. That's what makes worship centered on God's Word worthwhile!

To sum up today's study:

If someone says, "I'm going to leave my current church family and find a church family that matches up better with my worship preferences," how would you use God's Word to respond?