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Worship: A Spring of Life and Shalom

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Music, Vision, Action

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B2: Worship: A Spring of Life and Shalom—Mariano Avila

Worship helps us answer fundamental questions of human existence regarding our identity, calling, main purpose in life, and how to be empowered for service to God. We will carefully review key biblical passages that answer these questions, showing how worship can become a source for deep gratitude, clear vision and constant empowerment to face life's challenges.

Worship as a Spring of Life and Shalom

- 1. Genesis: The Blessing on the Sabbath:** 2:1-3 (comp. 1:22, 28; 12:1-3 // Ps 133). *Abundant life.*

- 2. Exodus: Historical basis for our worship; vocation and mission.**
 - a. Covenant.** 2:23-25
 - b. Liberation.** 3-18
 - c. Torah & Covenant:** Life of gratitude and obedience 19-24
 - d. Worship:** A privilege and a duty: God at the center of life 25-40

- 3. Leviticus: A handbook on ways to worship/serve God.**
 - a. Offerings:** Chs.1-10. Different kinds of offerings; different reasons

*In all circumstances and aspects of life we should glorify God.
We offer the best we have.
Worship is to please God, not ourselves
Worship is not a magic act, to manipulate God; it is to please
and serve him.*

 - b. The Holiness Code: Imitating God's Holiness in everyday life;
Loving our Neighbor ch. 19.
Doing Justice and Being Responsible Stewards:

Sabbath year: Ch. 25:1-7 Ecological and humanitarian
Jubilee Years. Ch. 25:8-55 Land and social rest;
economical restoration and self-sufficiency.**

Nota Bene: Do not forget that **ch.26** deals with the **blessings** that come because of obedience to the Torah, **and the curses** that result of disobedience to **Berith** (26:42).

4. Numbers:

The time: In chs. 28-29 we learn about the times for the offerings:

All the time of our life should be consecrated to God.

There are several cycles that encompass daily life in worship:

Daily --Twice a day 28:3-8

Weekly--Sabbath 28:9-10

Monthly--New Moon (monthly) 28:11-15

Yearly--Festivals (One week long)

First Month: **Passover:** 28:16-25

Third Month: **Feast of the Weeks** (Pentecost):
28:26-31

Seventh Month: **Festival of the trumpets**

/Day of Atonement 29:1-11

Festival of Booths/Tents 29:12-38

Sabbath Year: Rest for the Land, provision for the poor
25:1-7

The Year of Jubilee: Liberty and justice for All:
Lev. 25:8-54.

5. Deuteronomy: The nature of worship: key chapter: 26.

This is one of the earliest and few liturgies we have for education in Shalom and justice:

Gratitude: Is the fertile soil where worship grows. What we are and have are Gifts of God. (vv.1-4)

Memory: Of our origin, pilgrimage, and the way the Lord has sustained us (5-10)

Commitment to God expressed in our solidarity to our neighbors (vv. 11-12. Also Mt 5:21-26; 25:31-46, 1 Co. 11:17-34, James 1:27; 2:14-17, 1 John 3:16-18; 4:20-21)

God's blessing comes as a response to our obedience (vv. 13-15).

Worship as a renewal and re-enactment of God's covenant.

Importance of a continuous reminder;
the heart of rituals and ceremonies. (vv. 16-19).

Ephesians as a Worship Service

A. *The Language of Worship*

- 1. *Salutation and Benediction*** 1:1-2
- 2. *Adoration***: Blessing to the Triune God 1:3-14
- 3. *Prayer of Thanksgiving***: Gratitude for the faith and love of the Church. 1:15-16
- 4. *Prayer of Intercession***: Triple petition for believers 1:17-19a
- 5. *Revelation and Proclamation***: God's redemptive work in history 1:19b-3:13

of God's Power manifested in Christ's Exaltation: 1:19b-23

of God's power manifested in our resurrection and exaltation 2:1-10

of God's Reconciliation and Creation of a new humanity 2:11-22

- 6. *Personal Testimony of Paul***: His Ministry for the Unity of the Church. 3:1-13
- 7. *Prayer of Intercession*** 3:14-19
- 8. *Doxology***: Full Assurance and total Adoration 3:20-21

B. *The Life Style of Worship: Live a Life Worthy of your Calling* 4:1-6:20

- 1. *Using Fruit and gifts of the Spirit in the ministry of the church*** 4:1-16
- 2. *Avoiding sins that damage the unity of the body*** 4:17-5:2
- 3. *Pleasing God in everything we do*** 5:3-14
- 4. *Filled with the Spirit in marriage, home, and work*** 5:15-6:9
- 5. *Putting on the full armor of God*** 6:10-20
- 6. *Final Greetings and Benediction*** 6:21-24