

still waters

home church studies

psalm 65

[Worship]

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, 2 O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. 3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. 4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. 5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. 6 By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. 7 You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. 8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. 9 You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. 10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. 11 You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, 13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Contrasting our modern American church practices, with the forms of worship and observance in Jesus' time, things have become quite different through the evolution of the Church. What is orthodox (normal agreed upon decorum) in our way of working out Jesus' teaching, and those of the early Church, is lived far differently today, than what our patriarchs envisioned.

Last week we discussed how, in the way we view the bible, our thinking is affected in moving forward with God's way of reaching the world. If we believe that the direction (or the redirection) of the hearts of the people in the old testament and the early church had only to do with them and a failed

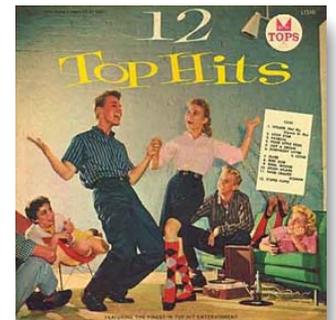
interpretation of God's "order," we disservice them and us. We can look at God's desire from "New Covenant" in a personal way, with individuals, as only looking forward to the church "age." In the same way we can look at the warnings of failure, exile, and judgment in the past as being only for those of that day, missing the point, and the warnings to us, of our own perversion of God's desires. Surely, the Church of today looks frighteningly identical to the religious attitudes and practices of exilic, fallen, arrogant Israel of the ancient past. Unfortunately, we are able to find ourselves rubberstamping their failed behavior today, which mirrors their ancient past. We moderns, embrace, and even adopt, their failures, inviting them into our own failed vision now.

The Church which the Apostle Paul died for, is the redirected, eternally focused, working out of God's radical love for the world; to the point of death—Jesus', and those of His followers.

We would rather build a church that is comfortable, filled with all of the "Worship HITS" that make us feel good, but Jesus won't let that sit. He tells us that radical humility, and an accurate self-confession is where He is free to be seen in us—a blank slate (so to speak) void of hindrance that reflects a perfectly merciful Father.

We are declared "Right" in the heavenlies when He is seen.

To His glory!! Amen.



[The Scripture] 2 timothy 4 .6-6, 16-18

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.