

#3 – ROOTED IN WORSHIP (Pete Burton)

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Psalm 92:1-4 (John Goldingay trans.)

*It's good to confess Yahweh,
To make music for your name, you who are the One on High,
To tell of your commitment in the morning,
And of your truthfulness at night,
With ten-string and with mandolin,
With recitation on the guitar.
Because you've made me rejoice, Yahweh, by your act;
At the deeds of your hands I resound.*

Ephesians 3:17b-19

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:18b-20

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The believer feels no shame, as though he were still living too much in the flesh, when he yearns for the physical presence of other Christians. Man was created a body, the Son of God appeared on earth in the body, he was raised in the body, and the resurrection of the dead will bring about the perfected fellowship of God's spiritual-physical creatures. The believer therefore (praises) the Creator, the Redeemer, God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the bodily presence of a brother." [*'Life Together'* (SCM press, 1954, 1995) p.9].
 - *What have you missed most in more than a year of not being physically present together in the way that we have always been used to, and still not able to freely sing praises to God as part of a church congregation?*
 - *What have you especially learned through this time?*
2. In a sermon on Psalm 72, St. Augustine (354-430 AD) wrote, "Hymns are praises offered to God with singing; hymns are songs, with God's praise as their theme ... For there to be a hymn, three elements are required: there must be praise, it must be for God, and it must be sung ... The singer of praise is not only performing musically but showing love for the one who is sung about. To confess God by praise is a way of preaching him; to pour out passion in song is the way of a lover." [*Expositions of the Psalms, volume 3, 470*]. Martin Luther (1483-1546) said, "To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer."
 - *What do you do when you can't sing together? How do you fill the gap?*
3. Pete spoke about 3 reasons why we need to gather for worship. One: It brings us together in unity, fulfilling the prayer of Jesus in John 17:11, "that they may be one" (Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Worship at its best is a social experience with people of all levels of life coming together to realize their oneness and unity under God."); Two: It helps us transcend our hyper-individualism (It is about 'us', not just 'me'); Three: It is our witness to the world.
 - *I what way is worship a social experience? Is that important?*
 - *How and where have you experienced 'oneness' in worship?*
 - *In what way do you think that 'to worship together declares the falseness of idols'?*