

The Worship Book of Why



Winter Bible Study Series
January 17, 2016

Why Do We Listen to the Word in Worship?



What ways do we typically incorporate God's word into our times of worship?

The reading of the Bible is in itself an act of worship -
not the worship of the written word
but the worship of the Living Word
to whom the written word gives witness.

Frank Segler

Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice

1. What is the biblical precedent for scripture use *in worship*? For preaching in particular?

Two "Old Testament images":

Nehemiah 8:1-12

Luke 4:16-21 (*Uh, Pastor, last time I checked "Luke" was in the New Testament. Why is this an "Old Testament image"?*)

A New Testament example:

Peter's sermon at Pentecost - **Acts 2**

A New Testament directive:

Paul's instructions to Timothy --
1 Timothy 4: 11-16 & 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2

Let's look at **verse 2 of 2 Timothy 4** a bit more closely . . .

Kerygma - proclamation of the gospel with a call to repentance

Didache - instructions to believers on living the Christian life

Here we find, literally in the Greek, an admonition to . . .
"proclaim (preach) . . . with all . . . teaching"
κηρυξον . . . εν παση . . . διδαχη

2. Why is scripture so important? What does scripture "do" when it is proclaimed?

To help us answer these questions, let's look at **Nehemiah 8: 1-12** a bit more closely.

God's word . . .

exposes what needs to change in our lives;
(look at **verse 9**)

points us to the grace we need for the process;
(look at **verse 10**)

broadens our horizons.
(look at **verses 11-12**)

3. How do I listen?

Come expecting

With a heart that desires
(look at **verse 1**)

Come attentive

With a heart that is teachable
(look at **verse 3**)

Come responsive

With a heart that is submissive
(look at **verse 6**)