



A Quarterly Journal for Church Leadership
Volume 9 • Number 2 • SPRING 2000

If someone asks me what is the use of going to church, what good does it do me, what do I get out of it, how do I answer these questions? It is as though someone asks me what the use is of getting married, what good does it do me. . . . There is only one supreme reason for getting married—for love's sake, for the other's sake, for mutual love, self-giving, a longing for intimate communion, and sharing of everything. So in Christian worship, we worship God for God's sake; we come to Christ for Christ's sake, motivated by love. An awareness of God's holy love for us, revealed in Jesus Christ, awakens in us a longing for intimate communion—to know the love of the Father and to participate in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

JAMES B. TORRANCE, *WORSHIP, COMMUNITY AND THE TRIUNE GOD OF GRACE* (DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS: INTERVARSITY PRESS, 1996), 71.

God made man in his own image to be the Priest of creation, to express for all creatures the praises of God, so that through the lips of man the heavens might declare the glory of God, that we who know we are God's creatures might worship God and in our worship gather up the worship of all creation. But nature fails of this purpose because of the failure of man. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus comes to be the Priest of Creation; to do for men what man fails to do, to offer to God the worship and the praise that we have failed to offer.

JAMES B. TORRANCE, "THE PLACE OF JESUS CHRIST IN WORSHIP" IN *THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY*, RAY S. ANDERSON, ED. (GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN: EERDMANS, 1979), 348.

HOW SWEET AND AWFUL IS THE PLACE: ZION AND CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Gregg Strawbridge

For worship to be fully biblical and experientially meaningful, we must recapture the awe of coming to Zion, to God's house. Having the fulness of new covenant revelation in the Final Word (Hebrews 1:2), we do not look to the place for worship, as if the building were the temple or the house of God (John 4:21-23). Rather, the sanctified place is a time—when and where the assembly of God's people meet in his special presence and on his appointed day.

THE AWESOME UNSEEN REALITY OF ZION

The language of Zion is a familiar part of our vocabulary of praise. We sing "glorious things of" "Zion city of our God" in the words of John Newton, and with Timothy Dwight we confess that we "love thy kingdom, Lord! The house of thine abode—The Church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood." And we may even know of the "awful place" defined by Isaac Watts:

How sweet and awful is the place with Christ within the doors,

While everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,

Each of us cry, with thankful tongues, "Lord, why was I a guest?"

Why was I made to hear thy voice and enter while there's
 room,
 When thousands made a wretched choice and rather starve
 than come?
 'Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us
 in;
 Else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.
 Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;
 Send thy victorious word abroad, and bring the strangers
 home.
 We long to see thy churches full, that all the chosen race
 may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing thy redeeming
 grace.¹

These hymns focus on a deep biblical stream of thought flowing in both testaments. In a robust passage the writer of Hebrews tells his readers:

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant . . . (Hebrews 12:22-24).²

This passage invites our imaginations to see the new covenant people in no less a cosmic context than our brethren at Sinai. There is more to worship than meets the eye. The gathered congregation is like the tip of an iceberg surfacing above the water with the massive invisible spiritual world below. In worship, we see people in all their flaws and beauty. We may fixate on the walls, the pews, the pulpit, the microphone, the table ("in remembrance of me"), the piano, the synthesizer . . . and sometimes lose

the grand vision of the "church of the firstborn." Scripture assures us that this grand vision of the church is not a *grand illusion*. The very words of God (Hebrews 12:22-24) tell us worship is a meeting of the highest heavens with our congregation on earth through the only mediator, Jesus.

The picture is painted nowhere better than in C. S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, writing, of course, as an elder devil to a younger devil:

One of our great allies at present is the Church itself. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean the Church as we see her spread out through all time and space and rooted in eternity, terrible as an army with banners. That, I confess, is a spectacle which makes our boldest tempters uneasy. But fortunately it is quite invisible to these humans. All your patient sees is the half-finished, sham Gothic erection on the new building estate. When he goes inside, he sees the local grocer with a rather oily expression on his face bustling up to offer him one shiny little book containing a liturgy which neither of them understands, and one shabby little book containing corrupt texts of a number of religious lyrics, mostly bad, and in very small print. When he gets to his pew and looks round him he sees just that selection of his neighbors whom he has hitherto avoided. You want to lean pretty heavily on those neighbors. Make his mind flit to and fro between an expression like "the body of Christ" and the actual faces in the next pew. It matters very little, of course, what kind of people that next pew really contains. You may know one of them to be a great warrior on the Enemy's side. No matter. Your patient, thanks to Our Father Below, is a fool. Provided that any of those neighbors sing out of tune, or have boots that squeak, or double chins, or odd clothes, the patient will quite easily believe that their religion must therefore be somehow ridiculous. . . . Keep everything hazy in his mind now, and you will have all eternity wherein to amuse yourself by producing in him the peculiar kind of clarity which Hell affords.³

Lewis is brilliant, and his literary incandescence is glowing here. This is the dilemma we mortal, redeemed wretches have in coming to worship. Even the most energetic and vibrant services are still encumbered by the people in the pew. The most inviting atmosphere of transcendental architecture (if such a thing exists in the American evangelical context) and the brightest and best arrangement of events, complete with professional sound, lighting, and digital projection, inevitably yield to the simple poem: "the church is not the steeple, but *the people*." Encumbered with all the sterility of a public meeting, we often forget that the very Christ of the radical resurrection promises to be present. Perhaps the communion table should read, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

In what follows, I have chosen to take a central motif, the *place of worship*, *Zion*, and consider its direct relation to the day of worship.

ZION AS THE PLACE OF WORSHIP

Zion As His Presence

Congregational worship is not only sanctified because of its manifestation of the spiritual reality, it is sanctified because of his special presence. Jesus will never leave or forsake us, and we know that his presence in each individual life is a precious reality. The Word teaches us, however, that there is more to the gathering of the saints than a multiplication of individuals indwelt with God.

In a well-known passage, Matthew 18:15-20, Christ teaches his invisible presence in the visible congregation. The "keys of the kingdom" in church discipline are exercised when the procedure in verses 15-17 is followed. Notice that the final explanation for the authority for binding something on earth is—"For where two or three are

gathered in my name, I am there among them" (v. 20). The import of this passage for worship is that we can be assured that when the church *gathers together in Jesus' name*, He is truly there. I hope you will not ask me to explain the exact nature of this special presence.

A lesser-known passage which also teaches us of Christ's special presence in the congregation is Hebrews 2:12: "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." This quotation of Psalm 22:22, applied to Jesus, seems to refer both to his earthly ministry in the congregation and to the spiritual presence of Christ with his congregation today. Believing that Christ is singing praise in our congregations, as it were, beside us in the pews, implies much in the way of our preparation, participation, and priorities in worship.

Transcovenantal Zion

The roots of God's presence in worship are deep and thick. Many First Testament passages illumine the uniqueness and sanctity of congregational worship. If the new covenant congregation is *in some sense* "Mount Zion," "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22), and minimally this cannot be denied—then the First Testament references to Zion's worship, inasmuch as there is overlap, can be principally applied to the gathered new covenant worshippers. Surely it is no less true of Christ's congregation that "God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved" (Psalm 46:5), or that in some special sense "His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion" (Psalm 76:2). If anything, it is more true that because our incarnate Lord indwells Zion, "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth" (Psalm 50:2). Our prayers, no less than our Elder Covenant counterparts, are to plead for God to "Remember your congregation, which you acquired long ago, which you redeemed to

be the tribe of your heritage. Remember Mount Zion, *where you came to dwell*" (Psalm 74:2). Blessing comes when we are like those saints of old in whose hearts are "the high-ways to Zion," and "when upon arriving every one of them will be seen in Zion" (Psalm 84:5-7). We are called to have special affection for the "house of the Lord" which is his temple (Psalm 27:4).

It is perfectly clear in the New Testament that the saints, individually and collectively, are the temple of God. But we are also called the house of God: "we have a great priest over the *house of God*" (Hebrews 10:21). Therefore, we should say with the psalmist, "O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides" (Psalm 26:8). At his house we receive more than we can ever give: "They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light" (Psalm 36:8-9). We should say that "we shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple" (Psalm 65:4). If we believe these things we will say with even more vigor than those who have come before, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122:1).

The concept of Zion is really transcovenantal. A survey of Older Testament references will yield a concept of Zion which is much *more congregational than geographical*. Over the thousand years from great David to his greater Son, the term grew into the verbal symbol of the Lord's gathered people (Hebrews 12:22; perhaps also 1 Peter 2:6).

ZION AS THE LORD'S DAY: BIBLICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The concept of God's presence with his gathered people pervades Scripture. But does this relate to the time of worship? Did Jesus intend for his gathered people to meet in

his special presence on an appointed day? Or was this left to mere circumstance and preference? In answering this, we shall consider not only the biblical evidence (which is authoritative), but also the practice of the historical church (which is instructive).

The New Testament uses the term "Lord's Day" only once. John writes in the Apocalypse, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet . . ." (1:10). A. T. Robertson observes that *Kuriakos* ("Lord's") had the sense of "imperial," and its immediate usage was an

Emperor's Day on which money payments were made (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:1f.). It was easy, therefore, for the Christians to take this term, already in use, and apply it to the first day of the week in honor of the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection on that day (*Didache* 14, Ignatius Magn. 9).⁴

Kuriakos is used only twice: once in reference to the Lord's Day (*Kuriakos hemera*, Revelation 1:10) and once in reference to the Lord's Supper (*Kuriakos deipnon*, 1 Corinthians 11:20).

The significance of the day pertaining to the Lord comes into focus when we ponder that the resurrection of our Lord took place on the first day of the week, Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:9). It appears that Christ met with his disciples in his postresurrection, preascension state on the first day of the week (Sunday) on at least four separate occasions (Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:34, 18-33; John 20:19-23). "When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week . . . Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you'" (John 20:19). One week later, we are told, Jesus met with the disciples again on the same day of the week—Sunday. "And after eight days (*hemeras okto*) again his disciples were inside, and

Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, 'Peace be with you'" (John 20:26). Then we find in the apostolic record, "Now on the first day of the week, *when* the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke (*dialegomai*) to them and continued his message (*logos*) until midnight" (Acts 20:7). Paul instructed the church at Corinth regarding receiving collections: "On the *first day of every week*, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

ZION'S DEVELOPMENT AND THE SABBATH DAY

The significance of the scattered references to the first day of the week and the Lord's Day comes into sharper focus when we see that they stand upon the foundation of the Jewish observance of the Sabbath. Observing the implications of Genesis 1:26-31, Adam's first full day was a day of rest, since he was created on the sixth day. Unlike the day of sin when they "hid themselves from the *presence* of the Lord God," after Adam's creation, he awoke to a day in his Maker's presence, apart from his dominion duties. The *one-then-six* pattern should then remind us of the theologically pregnant concept of *rest, then service*. The *rest, then work* pattern is founded upon both the Sabbath creation ordinance (Genesis 2:2) and marvelously typifies the Reformed view of justification. The Sabbath gift was certainly not a meritorious reward of rest for Adam's works. Of course, later the Sabbath commandment was codified in the Decalogue (the fourth commandment, Exodus 20:8). As such, the Jews' Sabbath observance, including their synagogue convocations (Leviticus 23:3), were obligatory applications of the law. It appears that a weekly convocation and day to "cease" also became culturally nonnegotiable. Certainly, however, there was much more depth of significance to the Old Testament Sabbath observance than a mere ritual of

ceasing from labor and gathering for religious worship.

In the second giving of the Ten Commandments, we see that the Sabbath was a memorial occasion to remember the release from bondage by the power of God (Deuteronomy 5:15). Even the land was to be given "Sabbaths" (Leviticus 25:4). The cycle of restitution, the *Jubilee*, is a Sabbath (Leviticus 25:8-10). Even the time of the Babylonian exile is measured as a Sabbath (2 Chronicles 36:21). Moreover, the very paradigm of time structure leading to the "fulness of time" (Galatians 4:4, coming of Messiah) is in sabbatical pattern (seventy sevens, Daniel 9:24). With this level of Old Testament biblical theology on the Sabbath, the typological and Christological qualities of the seventh day rest should come as no surprise (Hebrews 4:3, 9-10; Colossians 2:16-17). The Lord's Day is the first day of the week, the numerical "eighth day," counting from the first creation day. Viewed with the typological and Christological aspects in mind, observe that this "eighth day" of creation turns out to be the *first day* of the new creation. It was the day of new life, of new creation, of resurrection.

But is there more specific warrant for a change of worship-day? Is there something in the red letters about this? Jesus taught us that he had authority over the Sabbath, the day of remembrance: "For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8). When he instituted his new Passover Supper, he said, "This is my body which is given for you; *do this in remembrance of me*" (Luke 22:19). Just as Passover was memorialized on the Sabbath (Deuteronomy 5:15), Jesus required his disciples to memorialize his work of redemption, the antitype of the Exodus. However, his work of redemption was not complete *until the first day of the week*. And of course, only after his cross-resurrection work was complete did he meet with his disciples. And his disciples continued to do this: "On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread . . ." (Acts 20:7).

The first recipients of the gospel saw the weekly Sabbath pattern of worship as divine law, and yet the church emerged from the first century worshiping on the first day of the week. How might this be reasonably explained? While this day-change was germinating in the time of the apostles, it flowers in the centuries that follow. Our Seventh Day Baptist brethren might object to Sunday worship due to the lack of explicit warrant for first-day worship. But a sufficient reason can be given for the mixed practice of seventh-day and Sunday meetings of the apostles: they were in the terminal generation. The age of the Christ-rejecting, first-century Jewish generation was transitional to the wineskins of new covenant worship (Mark 2:22).⁵ Jesus predicted the synagogue work of the apostles without error (John 16:2; Acts 13:14; 14:1; 17:2; etc.):

Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation (Matthew 23:34-36).

I believe that the threads of new covenant worship are sufficiently plain in the New Testament, though they are not yet woven into the new fabric. No quantum leap into the historical and theological unknown is necessary to conclude that the apostolic church had warrant to worship on the day of resurrection. One should not hesitate in admitting that the explicit biblical material is meager regarding the question of worship on the first day of the week. Remember, though, the nature of that transitional time, after which the fundamental Judaistic institution was no

more (the temple was destroyed, *anno Domini* 70). But, what the Scriptures suggest in seed, the universal church demonstrates in full bloom. The voice of these verses is joined by the deep chorus of the theological importance of the resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week and with the specific demand of memorializing his completed redemptive work: "Do this in remembrance of me." The strong implication follows: his disciples should remember his creational acts on the first day of the new creation; and they should remember his redemptive work on the day they were demonstrably complete.

ZION AS THE LORD'S DAY: HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The earliest writings of the church are in accord with the priority of the gathered congregation for worship on the first day of the week. Even pagan Pliny the Younger reported that Christians met "on an appointed day."⁶ The *Didache* commands: "On the Lord's Day come together and break bread."⁷ The *Epistle of Barnabas* likewise says, "Wherefore, also, we keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead."⁸

Ignatius of Antioch speaks of the early Jewish Christians:

Those who were brought up in the ancient order of things have come to the possession of a new hope, no longer observing the sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord's day, on which also our life has sprung up again by him and by his death.⁹

Justin Martyr reproves the Jew Trypho saying that Christians "too would observe the fleshly circumcision, and the sabbaths, and in short all the feasts, if we did not know for what reason they were enjoined you."¹⁰ Justin is

no doubt referring to the apostolic teaching that such things "are only a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ" (Colossians 2:17).

Tertullian argues against the one "who contends that the sabbath is still to be observed."¹¹ *The Didascalia* very unambiguously, though with a slight thought of speculation, states,

The apostles further appointed: On the first day of the week let there be service, and the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the oblation, because on the first day of the week our Lord rose from the place of the dead, and on the first day of the week he arose upon the world, and on the first day of the week he ascended up to heaven, and on the first day of the week he will appear at last with the angels of heaven.¹²

Victorinus says that "on the Lord's day we may go forth to our bread with giving of thanks" (after fasting) "lest we should appear to observe any Sabbath with the Jews . . . which Sabbath he [Christ] in his body abolished."¹³ Eusebius of Caesarea tells us that the "only truly holy day" is "the Lord's day" with "the days set apart by the Mosaic Law for feasts, new moons, and Sabbaths, which the apostle [Paul] teaches are the shadow of days and not days in reality."¹⁴ Athanasius reasons, "The Sabbath was the end of the first creation, the Lord's day was the beginning of the second . . . we honor the Lord's day as being the memorial of the new creation."¹⁵ The early fourth century Council of Laodicea encourages that "Christians should . . . particularly reverence the Lord's day and, if possible, not work on it. . ."¹⁶ The *Catholic Encyclopedia* informs us that "the Council of Elvira (300) decreed: 'If anyone in the city neglects to come to church for three Sundays, let him be excommunicated for a short time so that he may be corrected' (xxi)."¹⁷ While more early witnesses to the Lord's Day meeting

could be summoned, one final word will suffice from *The Apostolic Constitutions*:

And on the day of our Lord's resurrection, which is the Lord's day, meet more diligently, sending praise to God that made the universe by Jesus, and sent him to us, and condescended to let him suffer, and raised him from the dead. Otherwise what apology will he make to God who does not assemble on that day . . . in which is performed the reading of the prophets, the preaching of the gospel, the oblation of the sacrifice, the gift of the holy food.¹⁸

So, did Jesus intend to specify the day on which his church, body, temple, people, congregation, Israel, bride, saints, Zion, New Jerusalem, holy nation, kingdom of priests, etc., was to assemble for worship? Did he not intend for his Church to gather in his special presence on "his day," the day of his resurrection, the day he met with his disciples after his resurrection, the day that John called the "Lordly Day"—the day on which the church met under apostolic leadership? I have sketched a biblical, theological, and historical defense that he did intend to specify the regular day of worship. And the Christian church had biblical foundation, theological implication, and historical precedent to call that meeting on the day of resurrection. Just as the ancient hymn by John of Damascus (8th Century) says:

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;

and, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own all hail! And hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her song begin;
let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
invisible and visible, their notes let all things blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

ZION: HOW SHOULD WE THEN WORSHIP?

The following four points of application are by no means exhaustive. They are merely suggestive.

Convocated on His Day: On the basis outlined above, what can be said to the erring church member who can "take or leave" the Lord's Day worship? The most direct response is very directly stated in the Word:

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Do not forsake the assembly! For the biblically conscientious Christian, congregational worship with the assembly of God's people should be a priority and highly valued. Casual dismissal of what some hymn writers call "Mount Zion's appearing" indicates either blatant biblical ignorance or significant spiritual declension. We make a profound statement to all the world by setting that day aside. We testify of the creational pattern, of the scriptural tradition, and most importantly that the Savior of the world was Christ, raised from the dead for our salvation.

Called into His Presence: If congregational worship is convening in his ordained presence, we should consciously and intentionally recognize that entrance. When we enter

into his presence as a congregation, we invoke his name. Therefore, worship is to begin with some level of recognition of the congregational entrance into his presence. The *votem* and the call to worship function this way. The Psalms repeatedly illustrate the recognition of entering into God's presence (Psalm 100). The wording I have found helpful both in prayer or anticipating the call is "We are gathered here not on any day, but on the Lord's Day, the day of your resurrection"

Convened in Gladness: We must enter his presence with the realization of the *awfulness* (in the older sense of the word, "awe-full") of the occasion (Hebrews 12:22, "acceptable service with reverence and awe"). Just this fact alone should remove flippancy, silliness, the "Jesus is my buddy" approach, and many other problems in evangelical worship. On the other hand, our recognition of God's presence need not quench joy, fellowship, excitement, and gladness. An undue application of "reverence" will land us in opposition to many clear commands for worship. God's people are to "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4). Among other relational-horizontal features of worship, greetings and the "passing of the peace" are to be extended (Romans 16:16).¹⁹ Our assembling is for "encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:25).

Consecrated to Serve: We enter into his presence realizing that Mount Zion has appeared. That is the essential theology of the *Call to Worship*. Though worship extends to all of life, there must of necessity be an end to the public, congregational worship of God. It would be unreasonable for it to fade out—like so many pop songs. How much better for it to be as an explosion of little lights into the world. *The benediction*, a pronouncement of God's blessing on the people, is a common and biblically based approach to sending out the congregants. Here we have some conflict with the revivalistic tradition which reduces the closing of

worship to an altar call response. The people of Zion have been summoned to his holy presence. Those who are not yet born in Zion are welcome and we hope they realize "God is really among you" (1 Corinthians 14:25). In fact, I hope believers realize this! Whatever evangelism occurs, it should not interfere with commissioning sons of light to go forth into the world to serve their King. Thus, at the conclusion of the service, the same people are blessed and sent forth to glorify God in all of life. Having been refreshed by bread of life and renewed in their service as God's people, they are sent forth to perform those vows in all of life. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

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Notes

1. This hymn is based on the parable of the great supper in Luke 14:16ff.
2. All of the italicized print in Bible texts represents points I am seeking to emphasize.
3. Revised Edition (New York: Macmillan, 1961), 12-13.
4. *Word Pictures* on Revelation 1:10 (this version from Bible Works for Windows 4.0).
5. Interestingly, in the Markan and Lukan (5:37) passage this saying precipitates the Sabbath controversy.
6. *Letter 10* (c.a. 112), cited in James F. White's *Documents of Christian Worship: Descriptive and Interpretive Sources* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992), 18. Many of the citations I give can be found nicely arranged in White.

7. Section 14.
8. Section 15.
9. *Letter to the Magnesians*, 8 (A.D. 110).
10. *Dialogue with Trypho the Jew*, 18, 21 (A.D. 155).
11. *An Answer to the Jews*, 2 (A.D. 203).
12. *The Didascalia*, 2 (A.D. 225).
13. *The Creation of the World* (A.D. 300).
14. *Proof of the Gospel*, 4:16:186 (A.D. 319).
15. *On Sabbath and Circumcision*, 3 (A.D. 345).
16. Canon 29 (A.D. 360).
17. Published in 1913 by the Encyclopedia Press, Inc.
18. *The Apostolic Constitutions*, 2:7:60 (A. D. 400).
19. The traditional greeting is, "The peace of Christ be with you . . . and also with your spirit."

A Christian worldview maintains that God, the one and only Creator, is alone worthy of worship. Recognizing that God created us in his image, it further maintains that a unique aspect of that imaging lies in the capability of the two beings to communicate with each other, to enjoy each other's presence, to love each other without end, and to be at work continually together: the one sovereignly creating, upholding what has been created and revealing himself to it, the other responding through worship, adoration, stewardly work, and creativity.

Such communion and worship are possible only because of the unique relationship between Creator and creature: the one is created in the image of the other. The difference is one of infinity and infinitude: the Creator is infinitely more-than, we are finite and less-than. Even so, the relationship is based on kind: we are created in God's image. Hence worship is not a one-sided affair, the one only getting and the other only giving. True, the Creator, by his very transcendence, cannot be but worshiped. And the creature, *imago dei*, cannot help but worship. True, the worship of the one naturally woos the worship of the other. But this relationship is also an exchanging of gifts, because both are givers. This is a willing union of all-sufficiency and dependence, sovereignty and subordination, prevenient love and responding love, transcendent worthiness and temporal worth. We risk a paradox: while the Creator calls for worship, the worshiper would rush to worship even if he did not call.

HAROLD BEST, "THE NATURE OF WORSHIP, FAITH, GRACE, AND MUSIC MAKING" IN *MUSIC THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH* (SAN FRANCISCO: HARPER COLLINS, 1993), 144.

Evangelicals have exulted so much in their "free, nonliturgical" identity, that few of their scholars have paid attention to the theology and practice of corporate worship. In their more mundane, year-round worship life, Sunday services have resembled evangelistic crusades or Bible study gatherings.

DON HUSTAD, *TRUE WORSHIP: RECLAIMING THE WONDER AND MAJESTY* (WHEATON, ILLINOIS: HAROLD SHAW PUBLISHERS AND HOPE PUBLISHING, 1998), 17.

What, then, does it mean to worship God? It is to "glory in his holy name" (Psalm 105:3), that is, to revel adoringly in who he is in his revealed character. But before we can glory in God's name, we must know it. Hence the propriety of the reading and preaching of the Word of God in public worship, and of biblical meditation in private devotion. These things are not an intrusion into worship; they form the necessary foundation of it. God must speak to us before we have any liberty to speak to him. He must disclose to us who he is before we can offer him what we are in acceptable worship. The worship of God is always a response to the Word of God. Scripture wonderfully directs and enriches our worship.

JOHN STOTT, *THE CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN* (DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS: INTERVARSITY, 1992), 174.