

The Glory of God

Psalm 8*

All of us have days when we are faced with seemingly enormous problems. We have physical problems, difficult people, impossible demands, and satanic attacks to name a few. We will either conquer them or be conquered by them as we live in a world that does not always make sense. How then do we live? Psalm 8 gives us the 'corrective lens' that is needed to accurately view our world, ourselves and our problems.

Derek Kidner writes; "This psalm is an unsurpassed example of what a hymn should be, celebrating as it does the glory and grace of God, rehearsing who He is and what He has done, and relating us and our world to Him; all with a masterly economy of words, and in a spirit of mingled joy and awe."¹

God is a God of majesty (1a, & 9)

God is a God of simplicity (1b-2)

God is a God of wisdom (3-4)

God is a God of purpose (5-8)

God is a God worthy of ardent adoration (9)

Evaluation of Worship Songs — Our "Take Home Theology"

Worship lyrics used at GracePoint Church for gathered worship are evaluated by the Elders of worship and the Worship Team Leaders.

Worship lyrics are evaluated by asking the following questions:

1. Who is the subject of the lyrics? In other words, who are we singing about and to? (God-centered or man-centered?)
2. What are the lyrics saying about the subject? Do they review and praise God's attributes? Or praise my attributes?
3. Are the lyrics theologically accurate, doctrinally correct, and correspond to the stated beliefs of GracePoint Church? (cf. Elder Affirmation of Faith)
4. Is the music well crafted?
5. Does the song foster actual participation in worship? Many songs are written for concert performance or broadcast, but not for congregational worship. Some songs are too technical, too fast, or too high/low for a congregation.
6. Does our worship team have the abilities and instruments to utilize a particular song? (We don't have a xylophone nor a pedal-steel)

Notes:

- We don't listen to the music until the lyrics are approved (see above). The musical tune can charm our emotions before the lyrics are evaluated.
- Also, remember there are no perfect lyrics, unless they are direct quotes from Scripture (in context).

* These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

¹ Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1-72 An Introduction & Commentary*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, D.J. Wiseman, Gen. Ed.