

Series: "Church of Antioch: The Church that God Can Use"

CHURCH AT ANTIOCH / WHAT WAS IT THAT MADE IT USEFUL TO GOD?

IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF CHURCH LIFE - Personal  
United Leadership - Generous Giving - Evangelism - Encouragement

GOD WILL USE A CHURCH WHERE THE WORSHIP IS DYNAMIC  
FAMILY ATTENDED CHURCH ONE SUNDAY - PARENTS & YOUNG BOY  
that evening boy said his prayers: "Dear God, we had such a nice time at church today,  
I just wish you would have been there!!"

### 1. The Worship Service

a. Standard Practice begins with word "While" / Routine / NOT ONCE A MONTH

NOT EVEN JUST ONCE A WEEK / WORSHIP WAS PART OF LIFESTYLE

"While" not WHEN / ONCE IN A WHILE / AS THEY WORSHIPPED

DO WE DO SO WITH JOY AND GLADNESS?

Psalms 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psalms 5:11 let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.

Psalms 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in you

Psalms 4:7 You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine  
abound.

HE GIVES MORE JOY THAN ANYTHING THE WORLD CAN OFFER  
THAN WHEN GRAIN & WINE ABOUND!! / More than Lamborgini Diablo!?!)

b. Structured "worship" = leitourgein / word used for LITURGY

WORSHIP WAS PLANNED / THOUGHT OUT / TAKEN TIME TO PREPARE

NOT NEARLY AS ORDERED IN EARLY CHURCH / as in Middle Ages

YET THERE WAS CLEARLY A DIGNITY AND ORDER

1 Cor 14:33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

c. Serious WORSHIPPING "the Lord"

WERE NOT JUST THERE TO SEE FRIENDS, HEAR CHOIR, LISTEN TO SERMON

THEY WERE THERE TO MEET GOD

Hab 2:20 the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."

FAMOUS PREACHER - Henry Ward Beecher - Plymouth Church - Brooklyn  
MANY CAME OUT OF CURIOSITY TO HEAR HIS WONDERFUL ORATIONS  
ONE SUNDAY HIS BROTHER THOMAS APPEARED IN PULPIT  
MANY PEOPLE GOT UP AND HEADED FOR THE DOORS - Haili?  
HE RAISED HIS HAND AND CALLED FOR SILENCE AND ANNOUNCED:  
"All those who came here this morning to worship Henry Ward Beecher may withdraw from  
the church, all who came to worship God may remain"

ONLY ONE THING IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE GOD SEEKS FROM US  
John 4:23 a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the  
Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Mal 3:1 suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple

d. Surprised "the Holy Spirit said" ORDER OF SERVICE NOT IN STONE

THEY WERE NOT SO SLAVISHLY COMMITTED TO THEIR ROUTINE OF WORSHIP

GOD DID NOT HAVE TO ASK PERMISSION TO INTERRUPT THEM

ISRAEL BECAME SO STUCK IN THEIR RITUAL AND CEREMONY  
GOD COULD NOT GET THEIR ATTENTION

Acts 7:51 STEPHEN THE MARTYR TOLD THEM "You stiff-necked people, with  
uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy  
Spirit!

SEVEN LAST WORDS OF A DYING CHURCH

**"we have always done it like that"**

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered the JEWS boldly: "We had to speak the  
word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal  
life, we now turn to the Gentiles... (v. 48) When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and  
honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

ANTIOCHANS GOT LOST IN GOD'S LOVE AND PRESENCE / NO SCHEDULE

WHO IS "THEY" WHO RECEIVED THIS CALL FROM GOD

NOT JUST THE 5 LEADERS NAMED IN VS. 1 / CHURCH MEMBERS AS WHOLE

PAUL & BARNABAS - ALREADY RECEIVED CALL / CHURCH CONFIRMED

ARE WE AS A CHURCH IN A POSITION TO HEAR GOD'S CALL & CONFIRM IT

HOW WAS CALL DISCLOSED?? LIKELY GOD SPOKE THRU 1 OF THE PROPHETS  
INWARD CALL TO PAUL & BARNABAS / OUTWARD CALL OF THE CHURCH  
ŠSELECTING CHURCH OFFICERS IS NOT A POPULARITY CONTEST / LIKES  
IT IS A CONFIRMATION OF GOD'S CALL / CALL A PASTOR NOT HIRE THEM  
WHAT WAS REVEALED?

"work to which I have called them" / VAGUE DESCRIPTION

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people & your father's household & go to the land I will show you

CALL TO FAITH - TRUST GOD - IN BLIND OBEDIENCE

WE HAVE A GOD WHO SEES IN THE DARK / AS WELL AS IN LIGHT  
Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet & a light for my path

SOMETIMES IT IS ALL WE CAN DO TO SEE DOWN TO OUR TOES

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL DEPENDS ON ADVENTUROUS STEP OF FAITH

## 2. The Worshipping Servants

a. Engaged "worshipping" THEY HAD COME TO DO BUSINESS WITH GOD

SO EASY TO FALL INTO HABITS OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE  
MIND WANDERS - THINK OF DAILY PLANS - REVIEW LIFE HISTORY

CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO KEEP FOCUS ON GOD / SIT CLOSER TO FRONT

MOST CHURCH MEMBERS HAVE MASTERED ART OF SLEEPING W/ EYES OPEN

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

ANTIOCHANS WERE FOCUSED ON GOD IN PRAYER AND PRAISE

WORSHIP WAS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT / ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

b. Expectant "fasting" WILLING TO SACRIFICE / GREAT COST!!

FAST AT LEAST 2x's A DAY - BETWEEN BREAKFAST/LUNCH - LUNCH/DINNER

FASTING - PULL AWAY FROM NORMAL ROUTINE / NEGATIVE ACT  
COUPLED WITH POSITIVE ACTION - v. 2 "worship / v. 3 "prayer"

NEGATIVE ACTION OF FASTING IS TO FOCUS ON THESE POSITIVES

THEY WORSHIPPED ON THEIR TIP-TOES / THEY WERE EXPECTANT

THEY CAME BEFORE GOD WAITING TO HEAR HIS VOICE AND FOLLOW

FEARFUL THING TO APPEAR BEFORE AN AWESOME GOD

Luke 1:5 FATHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER a priest named Zechariah,

v. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. (THE HOLY PLACE)

PEOPLE KNEW PRIEST WOULD APPEAR BEFORE GOD / WOULD HE LIVE??

v. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

c. Obedient "Set apart" GOD GAVE THEM A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT

PROBABLY HAD LOTS OF PEOPLE THEY'D GLADLY SEND TO MISSION FIELD  
anyone you cannot get along with would make great missionary!!

BUT THEY WERE SENDING THEIR BEST LEADERS / MOST GIFTED SERVANTS

2 Samuel 24:24 Araunah TRIED TO GIVE KING DAVID LAND FOR TEMPLE

"No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

MISSIONS DESERVES OUR BEST AND OUR BRIGHTEST - SONS & DAUGHTERS

TEMPLE OF GOD IS ADORNED WITH FINEST OF PRECIOUS STONES & GOLD

RANDY & Gay HONGO & Young Son Andrew "Never Far From Home" CUTE!  
NOW PAINFUL REALITY OF BEING 6000 miles apart! / YALE UNIVERSITY

ALL OF ETERNITY TO SHARE THE JOYS OF FRUITFUL SERVICE FOR CHRIST

"We have all eternity to tell of victories won for Christ, but we have only a few hours before sunset to win them"

### 3. The Worship of Saints

PLATO HAS A PICTURE OF THE NOUMENAL WORLD AND PHENOMENAL

PHENOMENAL WAY WE SEE AND EXPERIENCE THINGS  
NOUMENAL WAY THEY REALLY ARE / REAL WORLD ABOVE

SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN WORSHIP / CAN WE SEE THE ANGELS HERE??

Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

ANGELS OF GOD ARE NOT WATCHING EVENT OF HAWAII COUNTY POLITICS  
THEY DO NOT CARE WHO WINS WORLD SERIES - OR PRESIDENT OF USA  
GOD'S MANIFOLD WISDOM - ANGELS OF GOD CARE WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW!

REVELATION "unveiling" / REVEALING / UNCOVERING

WORSHIP IS WHAT WE'LL BE DOING IN HEAVEN - will you be bored??

GOD LIFTS THE CURTAIN TO APOSTLE JOHN AND THRU HIM TO US  
YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST SITTING HERE IN CHURCH / ANOTHER SNOOZE

LET ME PULL BACK THE CURTAIN AND SHOW YOU WHAT IT REALLY IS LIKE  
think you need a little drink of water / GOD TURNS ON FIRE HOSE

a. Scroll Sealed SCENE OPENS WITH STRANGE SIGHT

Rev 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

SCROLL IS GOD'S MASTER PLAN FOR WORLD / AGENDA OF ALL HISTORY

WHEN OPENED - GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS THROUGH REST OF TIME

SEALED SHUT / SEVEN SEALS / PERFECTLY SEALED SHUT

NO ONE IN THIS WORLD IS QUALIFIED / PLAN OF GOD WILL NOT OCCUR

Psalms 11:3 When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

Isaiah 29:9-12 Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless... {10} The LORD has brought over you a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the prophets); he has covered your heads (the seers). {11} For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed."

MIGHTY ANGEL EXTENDS AN INVITATION

Revelation 5:2-4 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" {3} But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. {4} I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

GLOBAL ANNOUNCEMENT / EAGER SEARCH FOR ONE WHO IS WORTHY  
NO ANGEL IN HEAVEN, NO SAINT ON EARTH, NO PROPHET IN WORLD BEYOND

LEFT TO OURSELVES THERE IS NO HOPE FOR MANKIND

GOD IS MAKER & SUSTAINER OF ALL THE EARTH'S CREATURES

Psalms 104:29 When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

WEPT & WEPT- NOT TEENY TEARS - WD. HEAVING, UNCONTROLLABLE SOBS

LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING IF GOD'S PLAN IS TO BE ABORTED

b. Lamb Slain

Revelation 5:5-9 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." ... He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. {7} He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. {8} And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. {9} And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain

JOHN IS TOLD TO STOP CRYING - SOMEONE CAN FULFILL GOD'S PLAN

THERE IS ONE WORTHY TO BREAK THE SEALS AND UNROLL THE SCROLL

HE IS KING - LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

ETERNAL - THE ROOT OF DAVID / David's Son and David's Lord

OMNIPOTENT - 7 horns = STRENGTH / 7 = COMPLETE, PERFECT

OMNISCIENT - 7 EYES - NOTHING HE CANNOT SEE, DOES NOT KNOW

OMNIPRESENT - 7 SPIRITS - where can I flee from your Spirit?

LAMB SLAIN - STRANGE PARADOX  
PERFECT STRENGTH BECAME PERFECTLY HELPLESS

EMPIRES & KINGDOMS HAVE THEIR SYMBOLS

England = Lion / France = Tiger / Russia = Bear / US = Eagle

29 times in Book of Revelation / Jesus is called "LAMB"

SLAIN LAMB IS SYMBOL OF GOD'S KINGDOM  
SOVEREIGN WHO WAS SACRIFICED

c. Nations Sought SOVEREIGN OVER THE NATIONS

{9} And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

WITH INFINITE COST OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST / NATIONS REDEEMED

John 1:29 John THE BAPTIZER "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

"NEW SONG" NEW - GOD'S MERCIES ARE NEW EVERY MORNING

MARTIN LLOYD-JONES "a Christian is a person who is amazed at the fact that he is forgiven. He does not take it for granted"

PEOPLE ARE PURCHASED FOR GOD - redeemed belong to Him  
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

WE DO NOT ASK GOD TO SERVE US / WE SERVE HIM

NEW BECAUSE THOUSANDS ARE STREAMING INTO THE KINGDOM DAILY

SONG OF WORSHIP IS A MISSIONARY BALLAD

ANTIOCH - IN WORSHIP THE HOLY SPIRIT EXTENDED MISSIONARY CALL

JOHN PIPER "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever."

Psalms 97:1 The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

Psalms 67:3-4 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. {4} May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

WORSHIP IS THE GOAL OF MISSIONS

WE WANT TO SEE THE NATIONS ENTER THE WHITE-HOT ENJOYMENT OF GOD

WE WANT TO SEE GOD GLORIFIED AND THE NATIONS MADE GLAD

WORSHIP IS THE FUEL OF MISSIONS

passion for God in worship precedes the preaching of the Gospel

YOU CANNOT COMMEND WHAT YOU DO NOT CHERISH

WE WILL NEVER CALL THE NATIONS TO BE GLAD  
IF WE DO NOT OURSELVES REJOICE IN THE LORD

MISSIONS BEGINS AND ENDS IN WORSHIP

d. Savior Central HE IS IN THE CENTER OF ALL CREATION

{6} Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne

ALL OF CREATION / ALL OF HEAVEN / CENTERPIECE IS LAMB OF GOD  
MOVES OUT IN CONCENTRIC CIRCLES FROM THE THRONE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN SAN DIEGO - STAGE WAS SET  
ALL AUDIENCE / LIGHTS / CAMERAS / ATTENTION OF THE NATION  
LOOKED INTO A CIRCLE WHERE 2 MEN STOOD  
in about 2 wks one of them will become most powerful man in world

LAMB REIGN FOREVER / WITH THE STRENGTH OF ALMIGHTY GOD  
Revelation 5:12-13 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" {13}  
Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

ABRAHAM KUYPER - Dutch theologian who became Prime Minister  
"there is not one inch of the universe about which Jesus does not claim, it is mine"

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

WORLD NOT OUT OF CONTROL / DESTINY NOT DETERMINED BY BLIND FATE

Rev 11:15 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE??

ALL OF LIFE LIVED FOR CHRIST BECOME DYNAMIC WORSHIP  
LIFE LIVED FOR HIM / OVERRIDING PURPOSE OF ALL WE DO

MAN WORLD FAILURE - died at 29 / of disease contracted from exposure to Indians he tried to evangelize / very few believed  
"As long as I see anything to be done for God, life is worth having; but O how vain and unworthy it is to live for any lower end" David Brainerd

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.