

## **Worship**

*The Power of Worshipping Together*

Sunday April 3, 2016

1. How important is belief in God to our behavior as Christians?
2. *When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong (Ro. 2:14-15, The Message).*
3. Why is gathering for worship so important?
4. **Worshipping together cultivates faith and shared mission.**
5. *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Heb. 10:23-25).*
6. **Worshipping together weans us of our self-centeredness and isolation.**
7. Worshipping together gives us a chance to be led by someone else.
  - This counterbalances the privatization of worship
  - This pictures the receiving nature of our faith
8. **Worshipping together multiplies our joy.**
9. Swedish Proverb: *A shared joy is a double joy.*

## **Study Notes**

### DISCUSSION

1. What did you make of Greta Vosper's story? Do you think she should resign or do you think she should be allowed to continue to lead her church even though she is an atheist?
2. What are the problems with forming our conscience via *social consensus*? Why is it important to have a fixed standard for right and wrong? How might such a standard draw people to God?

### INTO THE BIBLE

3. Read Jn. 4:19-26. What do you make of v. 22? It sort of reads like a put-down but Jesus doesn't do put-downs – he only speaks the truth.
4. What does it mean to worship God *in spirit and in truth* (v. 24)?
5. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' claim to be the Messiah? Read Jn. 4: 28-30, 39-42. What impact might her story have on our evangelism?

### APPLICATION

6. What might I do or not do on Sunday mornings to help others engage meaningfully in worship?
7. What can I do to help myself engage more meaningfully in worship on Sunday mornings?