

Message Reflections September 3, 2023

"On your feet now—applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence."

- Eugene Peterson, The Message translation of Psalm 100:1-2

What does God want? What would please Him? Did you ever ask those questions about worship? Do you believe that if you knew these answers, you would respond and give God what He desires? Psalm 100 gives a picture we can use to help answer these questions.

Read: Psalm 100:1-5

- Worship is valuing something or someone above all else. For what are you most thankful? About what in your life do you express the most joy? What are you tempted to worship more than you worship the Lord?
- Do you view worship as something that mainly happens at church, or does it happen in other areas of your life?
- Is your life is characterized by thanksgiving, praise, and blessing God? Or, do you tend to complain, question, and doubt God?

"We are His," is proclaimed in Psalm 100:3. In the New Testament, we learn the cost of our adoption—of becoming His. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:20 & 1 Corinthians 7:23**. Consider the price paid for our adoption, the price Jesus paid for His sheep, and how that can relate to your own thankfulness.

We have so much to be thankful for as God's adopted children. It's tempting to focus on what we don't have or what we wish was different, but when we focus on God and His goodness, it leads us to thankfulness. This change in focus allows us to live a lifestyle of true worship.