Good morning, Family. For two months now, we have been in our worship series. We have learned—been reminded—that worship is not about us. And we have affirmed that worship is a lifestyle, not a moment or event. We have learned that we must share our *Hallelujah*, our boast in the Lord. Worship as daily living means we operate in God’s faithfulness, His hope, His grace, and His authority. It means that we practice spiritual disciplines and that with them we live in the hope and forgiveness found in Christ alone. In Deuteronomy 33:26-28\* we read some of the last words of Moses, words of encouragement for the people of Israel, a declaration of hope, a reminder for them of God’s faithfulness. And Church, we should respond to God’s faithfulness with faithfulness, guarding our lifestyle of worship by continually practicing His presence—dwelling with God.

That intimacy was the promise of Moses’ encouragement. The Hebrew word for the verb *to dwell* is *shakan*. It means to inhabit, to settle down, or personally reside somewhere. In his Gospel, John writes that Jesus makes His dwelling among us (John 1:9-14, see at close of these comments). The Greek word for this dwelling is *skenoe*, which makes the literal translation of John’s verse “He tabernacled among us.” Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19, “Your body, Christian, is the temple of the Holy Spirit.” Similarly, theologian N.T. Wright has said, “People who follow Jesus are individually and corporately places where Heaven and earth meet.” And Family, our worship—our lifestyle of worship—should reflect that! Everyone who believes in Jesus as God’s Son for the forgiveness of their sin becomes a place where God dwells. The believer experiences the richness of God’s presence.

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\*Deuteronomy 33:26-28

26 “There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,

who rides across the heavens to help you

and on the clouds in his majesty.

27 The eternal God is your refuge,

and underneath are the everlasting arms.

He will drive out your enemies before you,

saying, ‘Destroy them!’

28 So Israel will live in safety;

Jacob will dwell secure

in a land of grain and new wine

Family, we worship because God is our habitation, and He dwells within us. From Genesis to Revelation, the Word confirms this statement: God’s love ever stops pursuing God’s creation! In Genesis, even after the fall, in the midst of failure and shame, God does not abandon Adam and Eve. Yes, they endure consequences for their sin, but God never compromises His Holiness. He never withdraws or breaks His promise; in His grace, He will raise up one of their descendants to conquer sin forever. In Exodus, the Israelites build a tabernacle following their God’s specific instruction, so His presence will go out with then, His people. This mobile structure means that He lives among them and that they live in the presence of God. John’s Gospel echoes God’s desire to dwell with His people with a powerful promise: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”(1:14). In Revelation 21:1-4\*, the Word tells us that the plan works out exactly as it was revealed in the beginning: Very simply, we can trust God’s plan, His presence, and His promise. There is incredible assurance in this, and it should certainly impact our worship. That was Moses’ message to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 33.

For the Christian, God is our address for now and eternity. Our worship should reflect that truth. What a blessing! The presence of God is a comforting doctrine for those who trust in Jesus for Salvation. This belief means for the believer that he lives in community with God. When the believer draws near to God, God draws nearer to the believer. In a psalm of Moses, #90, we read of his reminding us again that God is immovable, eternal, unshakeable, and yet, it is in Him that we live and move and have our being. In His presence is JOY! In Him,

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\*Revelation 21:1-4

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

is *fullness* of JOY. God’s love never stops pursuing God’s creation. Family, listen! Knowing God and making Him known should be the quest of our lives. And practicing His presence, dwelling with Him and He is us, makes all the difference. Practicing the awareness of His presence is a lifestyle of worship—our refuge, our dwelling place. We can find rest in Him. We can trust in Him, not because He removes our problems but because He is good. How’s your dwelling? Your lifestyle of worship? God remains faithful to you! How about you, your faithfulness to Him?

Passages in support of this sermon:

Deuteronomy 33:27-28

27 The eternal God is your refuge,

and underneath are the everlasting arms.

He will drive out your enemies before you,

saying, ‘Destroy them!’

28 So Israel will live in safety;

Jacob will dwell[a] secure

in a land of grain and new wine,

where the heavens drop dew.

John 1:9-14

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.