



THE BELL TOWER



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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The Hope Valley First Baptist Church family makes followers of Christ and worships God through prayer, fellowship, service and the study of the Holy Bible, testifying to the glory of His Name.

Pastor's Note

“David, Tell Us A Little More”

Throughout the 1980s–1990s discussion about worship styles was all the rage, often to the detriment of the local church. Much of the misunderstanding in these debates was related to music and the terms “traditional” and “contemporary.”

The problem is these terms inevitably lead to fuzzy thinking. For instance, what is *traditional* and what is *contemporary*? Is it simply a matter of dates? But on what date does something contemporary become traditional? Is everything up to that date traditional and everything after contemporary?

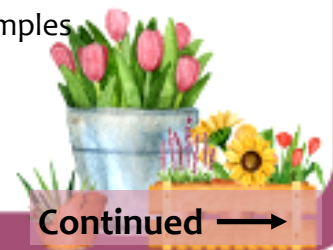
Or is it defined by your life and experience? If you grew up singing a hymn, does that make it traditional? If you don't know it does that make it contemporary? But what if a church sings a hymn written in 1750, and you just now heard it?

What about a hymn you don't know but others do? I have been a guest speaker in churches where they sang a hymn I never heard before. I had no idea when it was written or how to categorize it.

Maybe we would be better off if instead of thinking in terms of “traditional” and “contemporary,” we think in three categories of biblical, a-biblical, and non-biblical. Does this hymn convey principles rooted in a chapter and verse such as love and sacrifice? Or does it speak in terms not commanded in scripture such as worshipping only by standing, sitting, or kneeling? Or does it convey ideas the Bible prohibits such as self-centeredness or pride?

In any discussion of public worship, these three categories are important. Worship is a challenging subject. It's easier to talk about worship than it is to think about it.

In our last issue of the Bell Tower, I began a two-part reflection looking at examples of the worship of David to get a better sense of how he worshipped God.



Continued →

David was the greatest leader in Israel, extolled as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). Israel looked forward to the coming of a Messiah who would rise up in the spirit and character of David. Until he came, David would remain Israel's greatest king.

This being the case, it would benefit us to reflect on how David expressed his love for God. What did he do in worship that we could begin doing this week?

Last month I shared four components evident in David's worship: his *Devotion*, *Confession*, *Expression*, and *Organization*. Due to space, we only looked at the first two, David's *devotion* and his *confession*. His *devotion* was evident in how his entire life was poured into his worship. He couldn't separate worship from life, the two were one. And anyone who met David knew about his devotion. David's life was a constant *confession* of God. His love of God was evident in much of what he wrote, what he said, how he acted, and why he did what he did. To David, life was all about God and God was his life.

This month I want us to think of the final two components of David's worship, his *Expression* and *Organization*.

David's worship reveals him to be a man of great *expression*.

It was said of Charles Spurgeon that his blood was "Bibliene," in other words, cut him anywhere and he bled Bible verses. With David, cut him anywhere and he bled some expression of worshipping God.

While I've never studied the subject, it would be interesting to discover if there was any emotion David *didn't* use in worship. I think of 2 Samuel 6:14a, "And David was dancing before the Lord with all his might." Sadly, many readers are so distracted by the "dancing" that they miss the phrase "with all his might."

Let me ask you, what do you do "before the Lord with all your might"? Maybe it's not dancing (and that may be best!), but what do you do? Do you sing in church with "all your might"? Did you share the gospel this past week with "all your might"? Perhaps we should not be too quick to dismiss how other churches interpret this passage until we first answer what we do "before the Lord with all our might."

The apostle Paul would write to the Corinthians, "Whether then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). I can imagine David nodding in agreement.

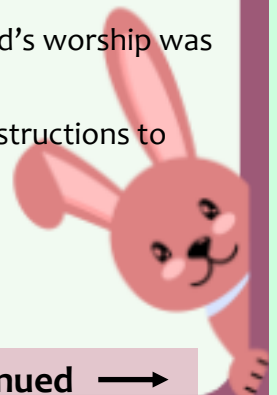
David "danced before the Lord," but he also cried before the Lord. At times he didn't understand God and he told Him so. David questioned God, and grew tired from wrestling with God. At times God stunned him, shocked him, surprised him, amazed him, and confused him. And David shared all of it.

I remember being at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem on a Sabbath evening. Dozens of Jews were down by the wall, some were singing, some were dancing, some were in small groups whirling in a circle, others were crying, and some just sitting and reading. I happen to be standing by our tour leader, a very godly man,

and I recall him saying something like, "I wish I had the freedom to worship God like that!" What a great admission. To be able to worship God will all of one's heart, mind, soul and body. That's how David worshipped.

So David's worship was evident in his *Devotion*, *Confession*, and *Expression*. And finally, David's worship was seen in his *Organization*.

Throughout 1 Chronicles we see David's concern that worship be organized in the careful instructions to build the temple.



Continued →

“So David gave orders to gather the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of God. David prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more bronze than could be weighed; and timbers of cedar logs beyond number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought large quantities of cedar timber to David.” – 1 Chronicles 22:2-4. See also 1 Chron. 22:14-17; 23:2-5; 24:3; 25:1; 26:1. Though David would not be allowed by God to build the glorious temple, he would put everything in its proper place.

So what have we learned from looking at David’s worship? It started with his *devotion* to God and it was evident in his *confession*, *expression*, and *organization*. David spoke of God, sought to live life mindful of God, and allowed God to direct how He was to be worshipped.

Worship is best practiced, not debated. May we practice it today.

jim



DEACONS' FUND



Have you ever noticed the wooden boxes on a pedestal near the three doors in the Sanctuary? Have you ever wondered what they are used for? Well, let me explain. Those boxes are the Deacon Fund boxes. Every first Sunday of the month, which is Communion Sunday in our church, those boxes are placed near each Sanctuary door for cash/check donations. If you use Venmo, just note Deacon's Fund. These funds are used to support Deacon-sponsored events, pay for publications such as Upper Room so everyone has access to them, and the Welcome Bags that Maria puts together for visitors. Other expenses that are at the Pastor's or Deacons' discretion also come from these donations. So, if you have a little extra cash in your pocket, please consider placing it in the slot of the wooden box. It all adds up! If you have any questions, feel free to talk to a Deacon, we'll be glad to answer.



Tag, Craft and Bake Sale

**SATURDAY
APRIL 27
9 AM - 1 PM**

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH IN
HOPE VALLEY**

1059 Main St.
Hope Valley, RI



**FOR DONATIONS,
WE ACCEPT: SMALL
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, HOME
DECOR, BOOKS, LAWN &
GARDEN TOOLS, JEWELRY,
AND KID'S TOYS.**

**NO LARGE
FURNITURE.
NO BABY
FURNITURE.
NO CLOTHING.**

**CALL THE
OFFICE AT
401-539-
7553 FOR
DONATIONS.**

SPRING FOOD DRIVE

SPRING
into giving

You can make a difference to a family in need. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the designated containers located at the front entrance to the church. We deliver non-perishable food items on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Suggested items: canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned soup, canned stew, canned tuna fish, PB & J, crackers, boxed dinners, pasta, spaghetti sauce, pancake mix, and syrup, condiments such as mayonnaise, ketchup and mustard.

NOTE: Please check expiration dates on all donations.

What's Happening



**Tuesday — April 2, 2024
6:00 PM — Trustees**

**Tuesday — April 9, 2024
6:00 PM — Deacons
6:30 PM — Christian Ed.**

**Wednesday — April 10, 2024
10:00 AM — Nichols Board**

**Friday — April 19, 2024
10:00 AM — Missions**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

April

- 1 – Judith Scholfield
- 1 – Judy Gray
- 4 – Larry West
- 4 – Dean Eckenroth
- 10 – Lori Roeleveld
- 11 – Paula Gaebe
- 11 – Debra Stanton
- 12 – Michelle Emond
- 14 – Stephanie DaPonte
- 15 – Keith Place





Children's Corner

Devotional: Growing In God

Children's Devotion on growing in the likeness of Christ

Read: Luke 2:41-52 (NKJV)

And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people (V:52).

Jesus was growing in God. Even at the age of 12, He was beyond His years. They were all amazed and marveled at Jesus' understanding of the things of God. By His reply in V: 49, He already knew who His Father was, though Mary & Joseph did not understand what He meant about being in His Father's House and tending to His Father's business. We too need to be attending to our Father God's business in order to really grow into Jesus' likeness. As we keep in God's word and prayer, going to church & Sunday school, we grow in God. We have a daily relationship with God, just like we do with our Parents, sisters/brothers, or friends. We cannot get to know family or friends if we don't spend time with them—listening to them. It is the same with God. We need to spend time with Him to get to know Him—and by getting to know God, we grow closer to Him and grow as a Christian.

So, why not today, spend time with your best friend – Jesus!

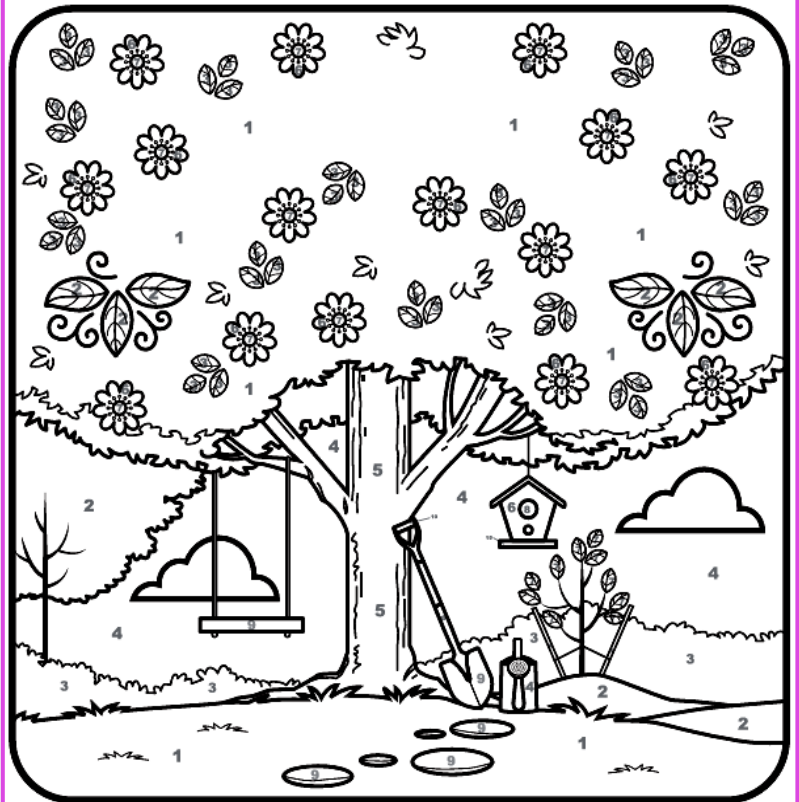
But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. – Psalm 92:12-14 (NLT)

I pray you'll help me grow each day In your likeness more and more, For when I spend more time with you, I'll become like you, my Lord.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Spring Color By Number!

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| 1- LIGHT GREEN | 4- SKY BLUE | 6- RED | 9- GRAY |
| 2- DARK GREEN | 5- BROWN | 7- ORANGE | 10- PINK |
| 3- YELLOW/GREEN | | 8- YELLOW | |



Download free from www.SchoolsDorham.com or [CreativeCommons.org](http://www.CreativeCommons.org) or www.Devotion.com

SPRING Word Scramble

Unscramble the Spring themed words below.

- UARB MELL _____
- UESFBTRTEIL _____
- RLSOFWE _____
- UNSYN _____
- IPLSTU _____
- EISNSNUH _____
- OLOSSBM _____
- OIAWNRB _____
- CICNIP _____
- NGEARD _____

Family Winter Potluck

February 29, 2024



WORD SCRAMBLE



ANSWER KEY:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. UMBRELLA | 6. SUNSHINE |
| 2. BUTTERFLIES | 7. BLOSSOM |
| 3. FLOWERS | 8. RAINBOW |
| 4. SUNNY | 9. PICNIC |
| 5. TULIPS | 10. GARDEN |

Women of the Bible
Women of God
Mini-Retreat

WELCOME

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

