

## **Worship**

Psalm 100:1-2 says, "1Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2Serve the LORD with gladness: Come before his presence with singing."

In my lifetime, the subject of Worship has caused a great divide in Christianity. Battles of "bands or no bands", "clapping or no clapping", "new songs or old songs" have split churches faster and deeper than any doctrinal or moral divide could. Lost in the mess is the beautiful gift of Worship that God has given to His people.

Psalm 100 makes it clear and simple that Worship is a joyful act of a redeemed people to give honor and praise to their Creator and Redeemer. When congregations gather on Sundays, the honor to lift our voices joyfully to God and come before Him with singing cannot be overstated. We get to praise the One who saved us, who made us heirs with Christ, and has prepared a home in eternal heaven for us.

Worship is too important to be dismissive of styles and methods. But it is also too vital for us to dissolve into heated battles of preference. As you attend Worship services, approach the singing with a joyful heart and lift your voice to God in praise. Pray for those who lead that God would lead them to choose Christ-honoring music (new and old) that allows each worshipper to lift their hearts in praise. And no matter your preference, lift up your voice and sing joyfully!

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Ridings