

May 24, 2026

“The Outcome of Worship”

Matthew 28:16-20

Ephesians 3:6-7, 10-11

Intro:

This morning, we have already heard 6 testimonies of God’s saving work in people’s lives – which is sermon enough! But I want to share a just a couple of quick thoughts with you that talk about baptism and our current exploration of some of the material that we use in our baptism classes.

We began a couple of weeks ago in the middle of our curriculum by asking the question “What is the purpose of the church?”. There are many answers to that question, but in our classes, we begin with just three as a way of getting people underway, as it were.

The first, and the one where every other purpose of the church finds its foundation, is to worship God. We then explored why we worship and how we worship. This morning I want to add the other two purposes that are outcomes of the worship of God. These are: To live the life of the Kingdom of God and To share the good news.

In our curriculum, living the kingdom life is explored first, but I am going to start with sharing the Good News.

To Share the Good News:

As with worship, sharing the good news is something that we as believers are instructed to do. We find this directive primarily in what is known as the Great Commission in Matthew 28. But even more than an instruction, sharing the good news is a response. We can only share good news if we have first experienced that good news for ourselves. It is the experience of the good news of Jesus that leads us to worship. We worship because God has been so very faithful and good to us. We should, then, want to share that good experience with everyone else.

Think of all those moments in your life where something good has happened and you just couldn't wait to tell someone about it – a job promotion, a gift that you received, or even just a really funny encounter at the grocery store. We enjoy sharing those moments with others. Here's the thing, none of those moments can hold a candle to encountering Jesus and having our lives transformed by Him. We delight in that. We gather to worship God because of it. And yet, we often find it the most difficult thing to share with others. For some reason, we are afraid to tell people that Jesus has transformed our lives, and that He can do the same for them. Words often fail us in this arena, and so I suggest that the other purpose for the church – to live the life of the Kingdom of God, is the way we can share the good news without having to worry so much about words.

Before we move to that thought, though, I want to point out just what the good news is: Jesus loves you. Yes, there is more to this – there is sin and forgiveness and salvation and transformation and all of those more theological sounding things, but at the heart of all of this is the simple and profound statement that Jesus loves you. That is the good news! And for many, it is the most wonderful and difficult thing to hear.

Living the Life of the Kingdom of God:

Knowing that Jesus loves us – the good news, is what drives us to worship. We worship because we are so thankful for that great love and we have no other way to express that. But worship does something to us. It changes us, just as the love of Jesus changes us. Paul talks about being transformed in Romans 12. In the passage that we read from Ephesians, Paul points out that God's purpose for the church is to display His wisdom to all creation – the seen and unseen. This wisdom is the good news, and it might seem foolish to many (after all, why would the divine want to be in relationship with mere mortals?), but God's wisdom is so much higher than our own. And the church's job is to display that wisdom. We do this through how we live our lives. I am going to speak more about how we grow and live as Christians in a couple of weeks, so this is going to be more general. Being loved changes a person. Being loved by God re-writes a person. Every time we gather to worship, we are reminded of just how much Jesus loves us. Each

time we leave from that worship service, we have the task of living like people who are loved so much. Under such transformative love, our lives move from selfish behaviour to self-less behaviour. The apostle Paul draws attention to this every time he writes about taking off our old nature and putting on a new nature. People who are loved act with kindness, not lashing out in anger. People who are loved have capacity for greater levels of patience with others. People who are loved understand the value of forgiveness. These, and more, are all ways in which God works the process of transformation in us when we come before him in worship. In the words of James K.A. Smith;

“Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and rehabituates our loves. Worship isn’t just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts.”¹

Conclusion:

How are you doing with your purpose? Don’t despair! Worship, sharing the good news, and living the kingdom life is not an individualistic thing. It is the purpose of the church, which is the body of Christ – all believers working together to encourage, challenge, and support one another in those purposes. Make it a priority of habit to join a community of worship on a regular basis. Invite others to help hold you accountable in your Christian life, and to encourage you and grow with you. Look for and make use of tools and opportunities that help to share the good news, such as inviting Christian and non-Christian friends to the same backyard party, or bringing people to events such as the open house next Sunday at Dallas Valley, or the Look Up Regina event on June 12th.

Above all, remember that God is at work in you. It is our job to let him do what He will.

Let’s pray.

¹ James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2016), 77.