"God is most glorified not only by his glory's being seen, but its being rejoiced in. When those that see it delight in it, God is more glorified than if they only see it. His glory is then received by the whole soul, both by the understanding and by the heart."

Jonathan Edwards



3 Objections

- 1. Cynical Skepticism
- 2. Misguided Spirituality
- 3. Cautious Investment

Boils down to Burden...

- 1. Doctrinal Burden
- 2. Structural Burden
- 3. Psychological Burden
- 4. Social Burden
- 5. Responsibility Burden
- 6. Consumption Burden
- 7. Financial Burden
- 8. Offence Burden
- 9. Engagement Burden

Worship *iS* a Burden

- 2 questions:
- 1. Where am I going?
- 2. What am I going to need?

Without this knowledge:

We overestimate the difficulty of the burden and underestimate the value of what's in it.



Where are we going?

1. THE CHURCH is God's plan for worship.

God is glorious- supreme intrinsic worth

God should be glorified- worshipped

Value

Reputation

Pleasure

Ephesians 3:4-11

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are *heirs together* with Israel, *members* together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus...¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

































A stable local church:

Real people seeking to make God's public reputation closer to his real worth.

What are we going to need?

2. Everything that BUILDS US UP together

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water...

...Let **us** hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful...

...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Cor 14:12

"So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church"

1 Cor 14:26

"What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up" (1 Cor. 14:26).

2 Simultaneous Purpose:

Glorify God Change Us

What's in the backpack?

Shepherding Leadership
Gathered worship
Preaching
Disciplined remembering and celebrating
Community of encouragement and discipline
Hospitality and invitation

What we don't need.



Is it worth it?

John 7:17

If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

