

October 14, 2007

**A Festival in the Desert  
Why We Are Here, Pt. 1  
Exodus 4:18-5:1**

We celebrate the Lord in worship because God is God and that in Jesus we have been redeemed.

**Revelation 1:5** – “...Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...”

**In worship...**

- We Celebrate the Truth & Power of God that led to our Belief – Verses 30-31 – “...Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed”

**John Piper** – “When we come to Christ to drink, what we drink is truth – not dry, lifeless, powerless truth, but truth soaked with the life-giving Spirit of God!”

**Jesus** – is the One who reaches us, where we are in real life, by speaking the truth of our lives, our sin, our needs, and the Truth of His deliverance.

What is the power that gives reason for us to believe?

- The power of God to deliver us
- The power of God to forgive sin
- The power of God to mend wounded consciences
- The power of God repair broken lives
- The power of God to carry us through our troubles, trials and dark times.

- We Celebrate the God who has Captured us in His Compassion – Verse 31 – “And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.”

For me, the desert represents two things:

- A World/Culture that is lost and without answers and hope
- My life with all the complexities of responsibility, pressures, struggles and sin

**In worship we celebrate...**

- That we are not in Control
- That we don't have the Answers
- That we haven't lived the Victorious Christian Life
- That we don't have our Acts Together
- That we haven't overcome our Struggles with Sin

We worship in a desert, as it were – a place in life where we recognize that danger, temptation and uncertainty would rule our hearts if we did not know the True and Living God – and that He actually Cares about Us!

- What better message for a world dying of thirst, longing for the touch of life and healing?
- What better celebration for a culture that parties but is never satisfied?
- What better than to announce with our worship that it is God and not us who is worthy?

**Nahum 1:15** – “Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.”