

The third and final foundational verse that will shepherd our worship ministry here at Shoal Creek Baptist Church is found in Colossians 3 verse 16. It reads:

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Paul unloads with one simple imperative: **ENRICH** people's hearts with the Gospel. See to it that it is a fixture in your church just as much as the stage is, the committees, the piano, the preacher, the pews, the 50-year old chandeliers, the steeple... Harkening back to the familiar words heard throughout this infamous year of 2020: The Gospel is essential. Make it so. How?

Variety. "Psalms, hymns, and songs, from the Spirit," Paul says. It appears God affirms the beauty of diversity. Remember, we're talking about the Being who designed the Tiger and the Toad, the Seashore and Stars. Think God likes diversity? And yet we all can utterly fail in reconciling our selfish preferences with God's command here from generation to generation. Short of me going into a thesis of a rant in regards to church music history, the church has battled reform after reform regarding the "appropriate standard" for music and orders of worship. My response? The devotions I've composed and have shared with you all these last few weeks outline what I believe the broader prescription or *approach* to worship should be: help our heart of worship *tune* into God's heart; that we all might abide more *RICHLY* in Christ. God desires diversity in our doxology, so long as our doxology is anchored in humility, thanksgiving, and truth!

So as I wrap up our 3 foundational scriptures for our ministry, that word "tune" resonates so clearly here: that when we combine Isaiah's vision of worship we see in the throne-room in Isaiah 6, tied to his command to become a missionary, and then couple that with the Samaritan woman's lesson to worship in spirit and in truth, honing her disposition under the Lordship of Jesus within her heart, and now tying all this in with our calling to enrich our hearts with the gospel through creativity, like animals who enrich planet earth, we finally discover that our hearts are commanded to be *in tune with God*. As we look around us, it is obvious the world in which we live is out of tune with God. So help us Holy Spirit, the **church will**.

We seek to keep in tune with God primarily and with each other.