

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## General Information

Table of Contents.....	I
Schedule.....	2-3
Welcome Letter from Mike Herbster.....	4
Camp Map.....	5
Breakout Sessions.....	6-7
Breakout Session Guide.....	7
Breakout Session Plan.....	8
Exhibitors.....	9
Conference Hymn.....	10-11

## Main Sessions

Session One .....	12
Session Two .....	15
Session Three .....	18
Session Four .....	21
Session Four .....	24
Session Six .....	26
Session Seven .....	29
Session Eight .....	32
Session Nine.....	34

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly  
in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing  
one another in psalms and hymns and  
spiritual songs, singing with grace in  
your hearts to the Lord.

**COLOSSIANS 3:16**



# SCHEDULE

## Tuesday, January 6, 2026

- 12:00-2:00..... Exhibitors Set-Up
- 2:00-5:00..... Check-In
- 2:00-5:00..... Exhibitors Open
- 3:00-5:00..... Bayou Beans
- 5:30-6:30..... Dinner
- 7:00-8:30..... Main Session 1**
- 8:30-10:30..... Post-Service Free Time<sup>1</sup>

## Wednesday, January 7, 2026

- 7:00-9:00..... Bayou Beans
- 7:45-8:45..... Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00..... Main Session 2**
- 10:00-11:00..... Break & Bayou Beans
- 10:15-10:55..... Volunteer Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00-11:50..... Breakout Sessions (Round 1)
- 12:00-12:25..... Choral Sing
- 12:30-1:30..... Lunch
- 1:30-2:20..... Panel Discussion
- 2:30-3:20..... Breakout Sessions (Round 2)
- 3:30-5:30..... Afternoon Free Time<sup>2</sup>
- 5:30-6:30..... Dinner
- 7:00-9:15..... Main Session 3 & 4**
- 9:15-10:45..... Post-Service Free Time<sup>1</sup>

## Thursday, January 8, 2026

- 7:00-9:00..... Bayou Beans
- 7:45-8:45..... Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00..... Main Session 5**
- 10:00-11:00..... Break & Bayou Beans
- 10:15-10:55..... Volunteer Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00-11:50..... Breakout Sessions (Round 3)
- 12:00-12:25..... Choral Sing

# SCHEDULE



12:30-1:30.....	Lunch
1:30-2:20.....	Panel Discussion
2:30-3:20.....	Breakout Sessions (Round 4)
3:30-5:30.....	Afternoon Free Time <sup>2</sup>
5:30-6:30.....	Dinner
<b>7:00-9:15.....</b>	<b>Main Session 6 &amp; 7</b>
9:15-10:45.....	Post-Service Free Time <sup>1</sup>

## Friday, January 9, 2026

7:00-9:00.....	Bayou Beans
7:45-8:45.....	Continental Breakfast
<b>9:00-9:50.....</b>	<b>Main Session 8</b>
10:00-10:50.....	Breakout Sessions (Round 5)
11:00-11:30.....	Break
<b>11:30-12:25.....</b>	<b>Main Session 9</b>
12:30-1:00.....	Grab N' Go Lunch
12:30-2:00.....	Bayou Beans

### <sup>1</sup>Post-Service Free Time Includes

Post Service Snack (Dining Hall), Bayou Beans, The Bay Mini Golf, Campfire, and Game Room.

### <sup>2</sup>Afternoon Free Time Includes

Bayou Beans, The Bay Mini Golf, Game Room, Zipline, Rockwall, Disc Golf, and Boats.

## Common Meeting Locations

Meals.....	Dining Hall
Main Sessions.....	Gymnasium
Breakout Sessions.....	Various
Choral Sing.....	Gymnasium
Panel Discussion.....	Gymnasium



# WELCOME!

Hello Friend,

Welcome to the 2026 Worship Conference here at Southland Christian Ministries! We are truly delighted that you have joined us, and we are praying that the Lord will use these days to deepen your understanding and practice of biblical worship.

This year's theme—"Word-Centered Worship" (Colossians 3:16)—reminds us that Christian worship is rooted in Scripture—shaping our minds, forming our affections, and guiding our ministry. In a world filled with noise, trends, and competing voices, God's people must be anchored in His Word so that our songs, our services, and our lives reflect the riches of Christ. Our desire is that this conference will help you slow down, listen well, and allow the Word to saturate every aspect of your worship and ministry.

Throughout the week, you'll be encouraged to think, engage, and grow. Visit each exhibitor table to discover helpful resources, take time to fellowship with other attendees and speakers, and look for opportunities to encourage someone with what God is teaching you. What you gain from these days will be directly tied to how intentionally you participate.

The Southland team and I are here to serve you in any way we can. If you have questions, needs, or suggestions, please connect with us.

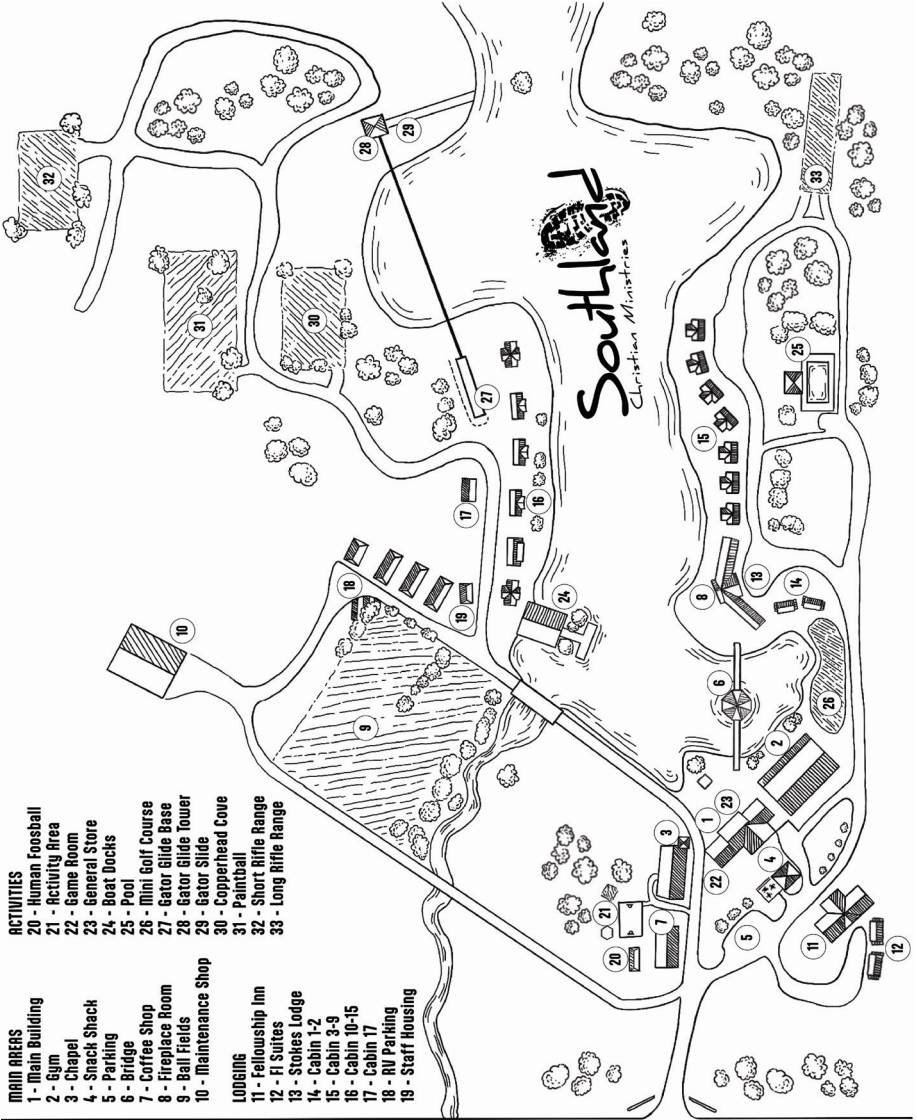
We are praying for a rich and spiritually fruitful week together and trusting that the Lord will work in all our hearts as His Word is taught, sung, and applied.

Together in His Service,

A handwritten signature in red ink, reading "Mike Herbster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**MIKE HERBSTER** | *Conference Coordinator*  
816.520.3347 | [mherbster@southlandcamp.org](mailto:mherbster@southlandcamp.org)

# CAMP MAP





# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## Round One

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 11:00-11:50 AM*

<i>Exciting Piano Playing</i>	<b>Shelly Hamilton</b>	Gymnasium
<i>Thoughtful Singing</i>	<b>Megan Morgan</b>	Chapel
<i>The Choral Rehearsal</i>	<b>Micah Gillespie</b>	Bayou Beans
<i>The Psalms Speak</i>	<b>Doug Bachorik</b>	Fellowship Inn
<i>Planning A Worship Service</i>	<b>Greg Steikes</b>	Fireplace Room

## Round Two

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 2:30-3:30 PM*

<i>Copyright Basics for the Church</i>	<b>Emaley Gillespie</b>	Gymnasium
<i>The Choral Experience</i>	<b>Cleusia Gonçalves</b>	Chapel
<i>Church Music Roundtable</i>	<b>Various<sup>1</sup></b>	Bayou Beans
<i>Why The Psalms are About Christ</i>	<b>Michael Riley</b>	Fellowship Inn
<i>The Christian &amp; Culture</i>	<b>Mark Herbster</b>	Fireplace Room

## Round Three

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 11:00-11:50 AM*

<i>The Conductor's Preparation</i>	<b>Cleusia Gonçalves</b>	Gymnasium
<i>Introduction to Composition</i>	<b>Micah Gillespie</b>	Chapel
<i>Strategies for Musician Health</i>	<b>Pitagoras Gonçalves</b>	Bayou Beans
<i>Historical Worship Philosophy</i>	<b>Scott Johnson</b>	Fellowship Inn
<i>The Choir Speaks</i>	<b>Doug Bachorik</b>	Fireplace Room

## Round Four

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 2:30-3:30 PM*

<i>The Invitation and Music</i>	<b>Micah Gillespie</b>	Gymnasium
<i>Keyboard Skills</i>	<b>Pitagoras Gonçalves</b>	Chapel
<i>Arranging for Dummies</i>	<b>Megan Morgan</b>	Bayou Beans
<i>Give It To God: Shelly's Testimony</i>	<b>Shelly Hamilton</b>	Fellowship Inn
<i>Theology of Worship Roundtable</i>	<b>Various<sup>2</sup></b>	Fireplace Room

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS



## Round Five

*Friday, January 9, 2026, 10:00-10:50 AM*

<i>Church Pianist Round Table</i>	<b>Various<sup>3</sup></b>	Gymnasium
<i>Training Tomorrow's Musicians Today</i>	<b>Emaley Gillespie</b>	Chapel
<i>Teaching Children to Sing</i>	<b>Scott Johnson</b>	Bayou Beans
<i>Developing Musical Discernment</i>	<b>Mark Herbster</b>	Fellowship Inn
<i>Your Church Should Sing Psalms</i>	<b>Scott Aniol</b>	Fireplace Room

<sup>1</sup>Speakers include **Scott Johnson, Michael Riley, Doug Bachorik, Cleusia Gonçalves, and Micah Herbster.**

<sup>2</sup>Speakers include **Mark Herbster, Scott Aniol, Greg Steikes, Scott Johnson, and Mike Herbster.**

<sup>3</sup>Speakers include **Shelly Hamilton, Emaley Gillespie, Amy Herbster, Pitagoras Gonçalves, and Micah Gillespie.**

## Suggested Tracks

*Breakout suggestions based on categories...*

### Theology Track

- 1) *Planning a Worship Service*
- 2) *The Christian & Culture*
- 3) *Historical Worship Philosophy*
- 4) *Theology of Worship Roundtable*
- 5) *Your Church Should Sing Psalms*

### Piano Track

- 1) *Exciting Piano Playing*
- 2) *Church Music Roundtable*
- 3) *Strategies for Musician Health*
- 4) *Keyboard Skills*
- 5) *Church Pianist Roundtable*

### Arranging Track

- 1) *Exciting Piano Playing*
- 2) *The Choral Experience*
- 3) *Arranging Techniques*
- 4) *Arranging for Dummies*
- 5) *Your Church Should Sing Psalms*

### Choral Track

- 1) *Choral Rehearsals & Resources*
- 2) *The Choral Experience*
- 3) *The Conductor's*
- 4) *Give it to God: Shelly's Testimony*
- 5) *Church Pianist Roundtable*

### Music Leader Track

- 1) *The Choral Rehearsal*
- 2) *Copyright Basics for the Church*
- 3) *The Conductor's Preparation*
- 4) *The Invitation & Music*
- 5) *Your Church Should Sing Psalms*

### Youth Track

- 1) *Planning a Worship Service*
- 2) *The Christian & Culture*
- 3) *The Choir Speaks*
- 4) *Give it to God: Shelly's Testimony*
- 5) *Developing Musical Discernment*



# BREAKOUT PLAN

## Round One

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 11:00-11:50 AM*

## Round Two

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 2:30-3:30 PM*

## Round Three

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 11:00-11:50 AM*

## Round Four

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 2:30-3:30 PM*

## Round Five

*Friday, January 9, 2026, 10:00-10:50 AM*

# EXHIBITORS



*The exhibitor tables are filled with valuable resources and practical tools to help strengthen your theology of worship and support its faithful implementation.*

## **Faith Baptist Bible College** ([faith.edu](http://faith.edu))

*Located in Ankeny, Iowa, Faith has remained anchored to the truth of God's Word, preparing generations of Christians to fulfill their callings in both work and ministry*

## **G3 Ministries** ([g3min.org](http://g3min.org))

*G3 Ministries is committed to helping churches recover the rich, enduring truths of Scripture—truths that nourish the people of God and strengthen the witness of the church.*

## **Herbster Ministries Music** (Facebook: *Herbster Ministries*)

*Mark and Mike Herbster have produced a wide collection of Christ-centered musical recordings over the years. Their CDs are available at a discounted price.*

## **Majesty Music Inc.** ([majestymusic.com](http://majestymusic.com))

*Majesty Music is cherished in thousands of homes worldwide. Through Patch the Pirate and their conservative music, the Hamilton family has impacted many lives for Christ.*

## **Maranatha Baptist University** ([mbu.edu](http://mbu.edu))

*Maranatha Baptist University is committed to developing leaders for ministry in the local church and throughout the world, all for the praise of His glory.*

## **Northwest Baptist Missions** ([nbmwest.org](http://nbmwest.org))

*Northwest Baptist Missions partners with local churches to plant and strengthen gospel-centered churches across the Intermountain West.*

## **Noteworthy Ministries** ([noteworthyministries.org](http://noteworthyministries.org))

*Noteworthy Ministries helps local churches build God-honoring music and worship by training young people and adults to use their musical gifts in church ministry.*

## **Pensacola Christian College** ([pcci.edu](http://pcci.edu))

*Pensacola seeks to advance the cause of Christ through a Christian-traditional higher education that grows students spiritually, intellectually, morally, culturally, and socially.*

## **Southland Music Services** ([southlandmusic.org](http://southlandmusic.org))

*Southland Music Services is committed to producing conservative, Christ-honoring music for the local church. Be sure to check out their brand-new intermediate piano solo books!*

# CONFERENCE HYMN

## Our Great Heritage



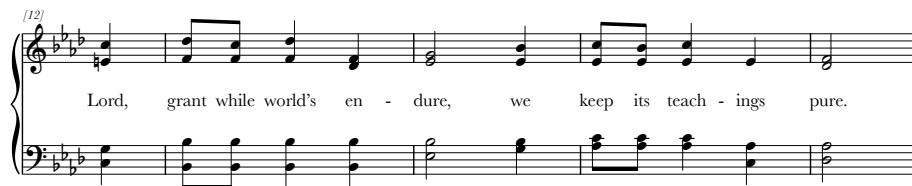
God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



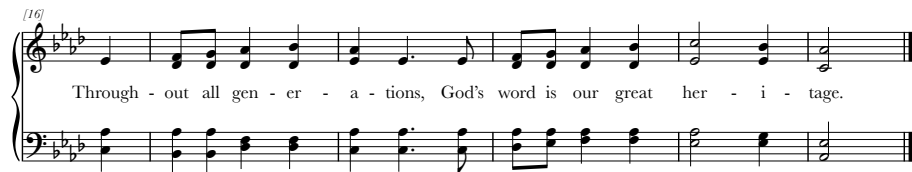
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - dea - vor.



Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay.



Lord, grant while world's en - dure, we keep its teach - ings pure.



Through - out all gen - er - a - tions, God's word is our great her - i - tage.

Words: Nikolai Grundtvig  
 Music: Micah D. W. Gillespie

SCOTT  
 8.7.8.7.D

© 2026 by Southland Music Services. All rights reserved.

# CONFERENCE HYMN



*A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.*

*That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!*

**God's Word is our great heritage  
and shall be ours forever;  
to spread its light from age to age  
shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
we keep its teachings pure  
throughout all generations.**

**Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage  
for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my  
heart. I have inclined mine heart to perform  
thy statutes always, even unto the end.**

*(Psalm 119:111-112)*

*"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" traces its origins to 1817, when it was written by N. F. S. Grundtvig, a Danish pastor, theologian, and hymn writer. Grundtvig originally composed the text as a fifth verse to Martin Luther's famous Reformation hymn, Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God").*

*Written during the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, the hymn reflects Grundtvig's deep commitment to the authority and enduring power of God's Word. Though initially intended as an addition to Luther's hymn, it later gained recognition as a standalone text and has since been widely sung as a confession of faith in Scripture's enduring authority in the world.*



# SESSION ONE

*Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

**Prelude:**

*Amy Herbster*

**Congregation:**

*How Firm A Foundation*

**Prayer**

**Prepared:**

*Psalms 146*

**Scripture Reading:**

*Colossians 3:12-17*

**Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

**Congregation:**

*The Bible Stands*

**Prepared:**

*This Is My Word*

**Congregation:**

*Trust His Word*

**Prepared:**

*At Your Word*

**Message:**

*Dr. Greg Stiekes*

<sup>12</sup>Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. <sup>14</sup>And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.** <sup>17</sup>And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

*(Colossians 3:12-17)*

# SESSION ONE



Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes

## PAUL'S INSTRUCTION CONCERNING SINGING IN GATHERED WORSHIP

While the New Testament frequently assumes the practice of singing when God's people gather for worship, only the apostle Paul provides direct instruction concerning the theological and practical dimensions of congregational song. Most clearly in the parallel passages of Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18–19, Paul demonstrates that the church's music is not shaped by preference, style, or tradition, but by deliberate, spiritual priorities grounded in the Word of Christ and the filling of the Spirit. If pastors and worship leaders are to be faithful stewards of the church's song, Paul's instruction must govern both the content and purpose of what is sung in gathered worship. This session will examine these two foundational texts side by side in order to identify the source, manner, and purpose of Christian singing.

### Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell*

in you  
richly

in all wisdom;  
teaching  
and  
admonishing > one another

in psalms  
and  
—hymns  
and  
—spiritual songs,  
singing  
with grace  
in your hearts  
to the Lord.

### Ephesians 5:18b-19

*...Be filled with the Spirit*

speaking > to yourselves

in psalms  
and  
—hymns  
and  
—spiritual songs,  
singing  
and  
making melody  
in your heart  
to the Lord.



# SESSION ONE

*Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

## 1. The Source of Christian Singing

*A. The Indwelling of the Word (Col 3:16)*

*B. The Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18b)*

## 2. The Manner of Christian Singing

A. What is Singing (ᾄδω)?

B. What are Psalms (ψαλμοί), hymns (ὕμνοι), and spiritual songs (ὠδαί πνευματικαί)?

## 3. The Purpose of Christian Singing

A. A Horizontal Purpose: The Edification of the Church

B. A Vertical, Ultimate Purpose: The Exaltation of the Lord

# SESSION TWO



Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 9 AM | Dr. Scott Aniol

## **Prelude:**

*Micah Gillespie*

## **Congregation:**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

## **Prayer**

## **Prepared:**

*Lift to the Savior An Anthem of Praise*

## **Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

## **Congregation:**

*Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

## **Prepared:**

*Prayer to Jehovah*

## **Message:**

*Dr. Scott Aniol*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,  
Hold me with Thy pow'ful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's Destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

*(William Williams, 1745)*

## DRAW NEAR TO LISTEN

<sup>1</sup>Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. <sup>2</sup>Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. <sup>3</sup>For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. <sup>4</sup>When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. <sup>5</sup>Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup>Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? <sup>7</sup>For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God. (**Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**)

### I. The Priority of the Ear over the Mouth (v. 1)

A. The Wise Worshiper: “Be More Ready to Hear”

B. The Foolish Worshiper: “The Sacrifice of Fools”

### II. The Reality of God vs. The Rashness of Man (vv. 2-3)

A. The Theological Reality: Transcendence

B. The Practical Result: Weightiness

# SESSION TWO



*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 9 AM | Dr. Scott Aniol*

## **III. The Vow of Obedience vs. The Vanity of Performance (vv. 4-7)**

A. Worship as Covenant Renewal

B. The Disconnect of Performance

## **Conclusion: The Antidote is Fear (v. 7)**



# SESSION THREE

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Michael Riley

## **Prelude:**

*Shelly Hamilton*

## **Prepared:**

*I Am Bound for the Promised Land*

## **Scripture Reading:**

*Isaiah 12*

## **Congregation:**

*Sing Praise to God*

## **Prayer**

## **Prepared:**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

## **Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

## **Congregation:**

*How Majestic Is Thy Name*

## **Prepared:**

*For the Glory of the Lord*

## **Message:**

*Dr. Michael Riley*

<sup>1</sup>And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. <sup>2</sup>Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>**Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.** <sup>6</sup>Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

*(Isaiah 12)*

# SESSION THREE



Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Michael Riley

## LET NO MAN THEREFORE JUDGE YOU: THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST'S WORK TO THE REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE (COLOSSIANS 2-3)

### Introduction

While our differences with the Roman Catholic Church are many, at the core is the question of authority. This is true not only of our doctrinal disagreements, but also of our differences in the elements of our worship.

Here, we will consider an important text that undergirds a conservative commitment to the *regulative principle*: the conviction that Christ alone is Lord of his church and that no mere man has the authority to bind the consciences of believers on matters on which Christ has left them free.

### Colossians 2:8-15

This paragraph forms the core of Paul's letter to Colosse. Paul's answer to the false teaching(s) invading the Colossian church is rooted in the sufficiency of union with Christ.

The "rudiments of the world": a Pauline phrase of contested meaning

The mean of baptism and circumcision in this text

The core: we have been crucified and raised with Christ

### Colossians 2:16-23

This passage is the first part of the application of our core text. The theology of the previous paragraph is that because we have been crucified with Christ, "blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us," there is (to quote another line of Paul's) therefore now no condemnation for us.



# SESSION THREE

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Michael Riley*

The false teaching in Colosse depends on being able to heap condemnation on the brothers in the church for not submitting to these imposed ordinances, whether they be Gnostic or Mosaic. And such worship practices are not foreign, but intrinsic, to the context. Those who impose worship practices on Christians that are not demanded by Christ himself are undermining the fullness of the freedom we have in Christ from condemnation.

## **Colossians 3:1ff**

The second part of the application, though not our focus in this session.

## **Conclusion**

Biblical conservatism in worship is, in a proper sense, rooted in the regulative principle. And that principle is itself rooted in a robust conviction that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.

# SESSION FOUR



*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 8 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

**Congregation:**

*Praise Him! Praise Him!*

**Prepared:**

*Jesus Calls Us*

**Message:**

*Dr. Greg Stiekes*

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
Of our life's wild, restless sea;  
Day by day his sweet voice sounding,  
Saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship  
Of the vain world's golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us,  
Saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,  
Days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us—By your mercies,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
Give our hearts to your obedience,  
Serve and love you best of all.

*(Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852)*



# SESSION FOUR

*Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 8 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

## THE IMPLICATIONS OF GENUINE WORSHIP AND HOW THEY INFORM OUR LITURGICAL CHOICES

“Intentional worship” refers to a deliberate ordering of the church’s worship so that its content, forms, and purpose are consciously shaped by the word of God, as it is faithfully applied by pastors and worship leaders. The precedent for intentional worship is set forth in multiple places in the OT and echoed in several places in the NT (e.g., 1 Cor 11:17–34; 14:26–40; 1 Tim 2:1–8; 4:13), and guards us from worship that is accidental, merely habitual, or driven by personal preference or convenience. However, we will have difficulty grasping the reason for our worship choices unless we have a firm understanding of what worship actually is to begin with. The purpose of this session is to set forth a defensible definition of worship, to explore the implications of that definition, and to suggest ways in which it can inform our “liturgy,” or the ordering of the elements in our worship services.

### 1. What is Christian worship?

#### A. What is “worship”?

Worship is an expression that flows from our heart in response to an encounter with something we think is truly awe-inspiring or amazing.<sup>1</sup>

#### B. What, then, is “Christian worship”?

Christian worship is an expression that flows from our heart in response to an encounter with the living and true God.

<sup>1</sup> I’m building this definition of worship on the elements of one written by Kevin Bauder at Central Seminary.

# SESSION FOUR



Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 8 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes

## 2. What are the implications of Christian worship?

This definition of worship raises at least **three key questions** that test the value of the worship we are offering to God.

A. How well do we know the living and true God?

*There are two ways we explore our knowledge of God:*

(1) Who is God?

(2) What is God like?

B. Is my expression of worship worthy of this God?

C. What is the central word in the definition that defines the essence of worship?

## 3. How do these implications help create intentional Christian worship?



# SESSION FIVE

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 9 AM | Dr. Scott Aniol*

## **Prelude:**

*Emaley Gillespie*

## **Congregation:**

*Grace Alone*

## **Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

## **Prayer**

## **Prepared:**

*God Makes No Mistakes*

## **Message:**

*Dr. Scott Aniol*

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. <sup>2</sup>My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: <sup>3</sup>Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. **<sup>4</sup>He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.**

*(Deuteronomy 32:1-4)*

# SESSION FIVE



*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 9 AM | Dr. Scott Aniol*

## DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH SINGING (COLOSSIANS 3:1-17)

### I. Characteristics of Disciples

- A. Mortify earthly lusts.
- B. Put on spiritual affections.
- C. Live in harmony with the body of Christ.
- D. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

### II. Singing

- A. Singing helps the Word of Christ richly dwell within us.
- B. Singing harmonizes God's people.
- C. Singing forms mature affections.
- D. Singing kills earthly passions.

### III. Applications

- A. Sing as much as you can.
- B. Learn to sing, and teach your children to sing.
- C. Get a good hymnal.
- D. Sing heartily.
- E. Men, take the lead.

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Michael Riley

**Prelude:**

*Amy Herbster*

**Brass:**

*All Creatures of Our God  
and King*

**Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

**Scripture Reading:**

*Psalms 2*

**Congregation:**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

**Prayer**

**Prepared:**

*Crown Him!*

**Congregation:**

*O Worship the King*

**Congregation:**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Prepared:**

*O The Deep, Deep Love of  
Jesus*

**Message:**

*Dr. Michael Riley*

<sup>1</sup>Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. <sup>4</sup>He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. <sup>5</sup>Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. **6Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.** <sup>7</sup>I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. <sup>9</sup>Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. <sup>10</sup>Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

*(Psalms 2)*

# SESSION SIX



*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Michael Riley*

## **JESUS CHRIST HAS COME IN THE FLESH: THE GOODNESS, CORRUPTION, AND RE- DEMPTION OF THE BODY - AND WHY THAT MATTERS FOR OUR THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP**

### *1 John 4:2-3*

<sup>2</sup>Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: <sup>3</sup>And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

### **Introduction**

Gnosticism is one of the earliest Christian heresies, and it recurs in various ways all through Christian history. Accusations that this or that teaching is clandestinely gnostic also abound, some with more merit and some with none at all.

Defenders of conservative worship are sometimes judged to be gnostic: the suggestion is that our aversion to contemporary worship styles stems from anti-body convictions that are foreign to Scripture.

### **The Goodness of the Physical World**

1. Creation
2. Incarnation
3. Resurrection
4. The Kingdom and the New Earth

### **The Effect of the Fall on the Body**

The key here is to avoid two ditches. The first, motivated by fear of the gnostic error, ignores the numerous texts that flatly assert that sin has woven itself, not just into our immaterial selves, but also our bodies. The second ditch just is the gnostic error: equating the body with sinfulness and thus understanding sanctification as a process of detachment from the body.



# SESSION SIX

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 7 PM | Dr. Michael Riley*

The flashing warning lights for gnosticism are well-placed and must not be ignored. But I suspect that many of those concerned with gnosticism have given adequate consideration of texts that do connect sinfulness to the body and its appetites.

## **Implications for Worship**

What all of this suggests is that while we must not equate the Biblical category of the flesh with the material body, we cannot wholly distinguish them either. The body's appetites have been corrupted by the fall, and indulging the appetites of the body is certainly at odds with Christian sanctification. All of this should press us to modesty as a key virtue of the art of our worship.

# SESSION SEVEN



*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 8 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

**Congregation:**

*Our Great Savior*

**Prepared:**

*The Meditations of My Heart*

**Message:**

*Dr. Greg Stiekes*

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward...<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.**

*(Psalm 19:7-11, 14)*



# SESSION SEVEN

*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 8 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

## THE AFFECTIONS OF GOD'S TRUE WORSHIPERS (1 PETER 1:8)

The inherent danger of focusing much-needed attention on proper worship and its forms is that we can begin to worship the idea of worship itself and neglect to lavish due affection on the supreme Object of our worship—the living and true God. It is possible to get our worship expressions “right” and yet possess no true heart for God. This was the very bane of Israel’s worship that—through externally active and technically accurate—was hollow at its core and ultimately led to her judgment (Isa 1:10–17; 29:13). How tragic that we could be satisfied with all of our correct worship choices and yet wane in genuine love for God.

In 1 Peter 1, however, Peter points us in a different direction. Writing to suffering believers scattered throughout the Roman Empire, Peter celebrates their genuine affection for God that marked them as God’s people. Peter sees in these believers two undeniable qualities of those with genuine affection for the God who saved them, reminding us of the ultimate aim of proper worship.

### I. Inexplicable Love

*... whom having not seen ye love.*

A. Because of the object of this love.

B. Because of the cost of this

# SESSION SEVEN



*Thursday, January 8, 2026, 8 PM | Dr. Greg Stiekes*

## **II. Inexplicable Joy**

*... ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*

A. Joy unable to be expressed in worldly terms.

B. Joy unable to be comprehended in worldly ways.



# SESSION EIGHT

*Friday, January 9, 2026, 9:00 AM | Dr. Scott Aniol*

## **Prelude:**

*Micah Gillespie*

## **Congregation:**

*Soldiers of Christ, Arise!*

## **Prayer**

## **Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

## **Prepared:**

*Am I A Soldier?*

## **Message:**

*Dr. Scott Aniol*

<sup>1</sup>Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

<sup>3</sup>**Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.** <sup>4</sup>No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

*(2 Timothy 2:1-4)*

# SESSION EIGHT



*Friday, January 9, 2026, 9:00 AM | Dr. Scott Aniol*

## **WORSHIP THAT ITCHES EARS (2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4)**

### **I. The Diagnosis: A Tolerance Problem (v. 3a)**

- A. The Stamina of Worship
- B. The Fragility of Sentimentalism

### **II. The Symptom: Itching Ears and Self-Love (v. 3b)**

- A. The Standard: “Their Own Lusts”
- B. The Definition: “Itching Ears”

### **III. The Result: Turning to Fables (v. 4)**

- A. The Great Exchange
- B. The Rise of “Fables”

### **Conclusion: Preach the Word (v. 2)**



# SESSION NINE

*Friday, January 9, 2026, 11:30 AM | Dr. Michael Riley*

## **Prelude:**

*Amy Herbster*

## **Kid's Choir & Congregation:**

*Our Great Heritage*

## **Congregation:**

*May the Lord Find Us  
Faithful*

## **Prayer**

## **Prepared:**

*The King In His Beauty*

## **Message:**

*Dr. Michael Riley*

<sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.** <sup>14</sup>And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

*(Revelation 5:11-14)*

# SESSION NINE



Friday, January 9, 2026, 11:30 AM | Dr. Michael Riley

## ACCORDING TO ALL THAT THE LORD COMMANDED: THE FORMALITY OF THE PAST AND FUTURE WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

### Introduction

We have gathered here as *conservatives* about worship. But there are plenty of Christians who would find that claim laughable, as their worship practices seem both 1) older and more traditional and 2) more formally reverent than what we would typically advocate here.

Our stream of Christianity tends to be impulsively against liturgical formality, disdainfully labelling it *religion*.

But we must be very careful. Without question, God himself directly established a very formal religion. And depending on how one reads the prophets, there will again be a day in which those rightly related to God will express their fidelity to him in formal and ceremonial religious acts of devotion. We need to revisit these passages, while also considering how these sections of the Bible affect our understanding of right worship today.

### The Religion of the Old Testament

Here, we'll consider:

1. Some of the particular expressions of the formal worship of the OT.
2. The abuse of the ritual system.
3. The ways in which NT authors make clear the superiority of God's revelation in this era—while refusing to condemn what God previously established.



# SESSION NINE

*Friday, January 9, 2026, 11:30 AM | Dr. Michael Riley*

## The Worship of the Millennial Kingdom

The restoration of the nation of Israel is clearly and repeatedly promised in Scripture, and the *nature* of that fulfillment is also given us in some detail. While we must wrestle through some of the difficulties this presents to us, we also cannot maintain a position that formality and ceremony in worship is intrinsically wrong nor emphatically ended with the work of Christ.

## In Between the Times

We live neither in Old Testament Israel nor in the reestablished earthly Kingdom of God. What then does the ordered, formal, ceremonial worship of the past and future mean for us today? Can we defend the *rightness* of such worship while also believing that this manner of worship is not characteristic of this age of redemptive history?

