

Psalm 95 Worship and warning



The different mood of the latter part of this psalm has led to suggestions that this is actually two very different beasts just cobbled together. But there is a very possible clear logical connection between these parts: true *worship* of God will lead to us taking the *words* of God – including strong warnings – seriously.

➤ **Worship: how (1-2, 6)**

There are attitudes and actions listed here. But how can joy, for example, be commanded? What happens if you *don't* feel this stuff? Are you excused?

What do you make of the mention of “noise” in this context of worship? Is this actually *commanded*, too? And can it realistically fit alongside singing?

And are we required to adopt particular physical postures in worship? Should we bow or kneel, for example? Is saying “oh, but *inwardly* I am” sufficient?

➤ **Worship: why (3-5, 7a)**

So what reasons are given for why we should worship God?
Which are just true by themselves, irrespective of response?
And which are more personal?
Do both draw you equally to worship? (Should they?)

➤ **Warning: (7b-11)**

So what's the reference to Meribah and Massah?
Check out Exodus 17. What went wrong?

But how could people called to the enthusiastic worship of the first half of this psalm need the warning of this latter part?

There is an extensive and clear application of this warning in the NT: Hebrews 4. What's the argument there?

So how does that apply to *us*, today, years yet later? What “rest” could we be failing to enter into?