

A Worship-Filled Life

Built Different #3 - Pastor Jonathan Combs - June 21, 2026 - Psalm 63:1-8

INTRO: Good morning church! Today we are continuing our sermon series entitled “Built Different.” This fairly recent phrase is used to describe a person who stands above the rest, whose physical or mental prowess is uncommon. We have used phrases like “he’s cut from a different cloth” or “that guy’s a beast” to describe these people with standout characteristics. Indeed then, Christians should be “Built Different.”

Those in Christ are “Built Different” because their lives are built on Christ alone and not this world. Our series is based around six (6) concepts of a life built different in Jesus from Romans 12:

Series Theme: Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Today we will zoom into this concept of spiritual worship and dig into Psalm 63 to do so. The Psalms are appropriate to look at for understanding worship and Psalm 63 is one of the most well-loved psalms. Fourth century church father John Chrysostom once wrote “that it was decreed and ordained by the primitive [church] fathers, that no day should pass without the public singing of this Psalm.”

NEED: We talk about worship often in the church, but there is often confusion about what it actually means. Many of us reduce worship to singing. But singing is only one expression of something far deeper. Worship is not primarily a moment in a service, it is the orientation of a life. In fact, every human being is already a worshiper. The question is not whether we worship, but what we worship. Something will sit at the center of our lives and shape everything.

And what we worship always takes control. It determines how we spend our time, where we invest our energy, what we sacrifice for, and where we place our hope. Whatever sits at the center becomes the engine that drives us or the weight that slowly crushes us.

The problem is, most of us place that weight on things that were never designed to carry it. Careers. Success. Relationships. Comfort. Even good things that become ultimate things. And instead of lifting us, they eventually leave us empty, restless, and tired. So the real question is not are you worshipping? You are. The question is: Is what you are worshipping able to hold the weight of your life?

Trans: There is only One who can. His name is Jesus. And in Psalm 63, we see what it looks like when a life is anchored in worship of the only One worthy to carry the weight of our souls.

BODY: In Psalm 63, while David was in the barren wilderness, he expressed his desire to live a worship-filled life whose greatest desire was not comfort or safety, but the presence of God. We can live a life filled with worship as David desired. How can we live a life of worship? The text gives us three marks of a worship-filled life.

Read text: Psalm 63:1-8 (ESV) *A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah* ¹ O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ⁶ when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. ⁸ My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

THREE MARKS OF A WORSHIP-FILLED LIFE:

1. A heart that Seeks God.

EXP: (1-2) David begins with God and with a thirst for His presence. His heart is set on the Lord:

A Worship-Filled Life

Built Different #3 - Pastor Jonathan Combs - June 21, 2026 - Psalm 63:1-8

“**God ... my God**” (1) (אֱלֹהִים, *’ēlōhîm*) - (plural intensive with singular meaning) the one true God; supreme God. The one true God, but more importantly my God. It is one thing to believe that there is a God, but a worshipful life begins with ownership, “O God, my God.”

“**I seek you**” (1) (שָׁחַר, *šāḥar*) - to seek early or earnestly, look early or diligently for. The worshipful seeks God early and often, like an unquenchable desire that wakes you up in the morning.

“**My soul thirsts**” (1) (שָׁפַח, *neḫēšh*) - the soul: seat of the appetites, the seat of emotions and passions suffers thirst. The Psalmist chooses thirst for a reason, he is out in the desert of Judah and has experienced thirst. Yet he wants God more. We can live for weeks without food, but only days without water. He is speaking of a desperation for God in his innermost being.

John 7:37 (ESV) Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”

“**My flesh faints**” (1) (כָּמַח, *kāmāh*) - to long for, faint, faint with longing. It denotes a deep, emotional, and almost physical yearning or craving.

“**I have looked upon you**” (2) (הִזָּהָה, *hāzāh*) - to see, perceive, look, behold

“**Sanctuary**” (2) (קֹדֶשׁ, *qōdeš*) - a sacred or holy place, often referring to the place where God's presence is uniquely manifested among His people, particularly the Tabernacle and later the Temple. David is remembering times when he gathered with God's people before the Tabernacle and beheld God's glory through worship, sacrifices, prayer, and praise. He is longing for more of this.

Psalm 27:4 (NLT) The one thing I ask of the Lord — the thing I seek most — is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

David's longing was not merely to see God privately, but also in the sanctuary with other believers. He was cut off from the normal rhythms of public worship and he longed to be back in the sanctuary.

I wonder if we've lost that longing.

For many Christians today, church has become one appointment among many. If nothing else is scheduled, we'll come. If the weekend gets busy, church is the easiest thing to sacrifice. According to Barna's research, the average attendance is still only about 1.6 times per month, far less than half of the Sundays. But that's not merely an attendance issue, it may reveal an affection issue.

You don't have to convince someone to pursue what they treasure. If your favorite team is playing, you'll rearrange your schedule. If your grandchildren are visiting, nothing will keep you away. We make time for what captures our hearts.

So let me ask you: Do you miss the gathered worship of God's people when you're absent? Do you long to sing with the saints, to hear God's Word preached, to pray with His people, to witness baptisms, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, to behold His glory together? Or has church become a religious obligation instead of a holy delight? The answer isn't simply, "I need to attend more." The answer is, "Lord, restore my delight in You." "Cultivate my love for Christ so deeply that I cannot imagine willingly missing the opportunity to worship Him with His people."

ARG: Seek the Lord with all your heart:

Deuteronomy 4:29 (ESV) But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Seek God first and above all else:

A Worship-Filled Life

Built Different #3 - Pastor Jonathan Combs - June 21, 2026 - Psalm 63:1-8

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

ILL: My wife and I went camping in August together **once** (I stress once on purpose). We hiked a mountain pass in the Appalachian Mountains, but didn't bring enough water for the journey. After hours under the sun, your body begins to shut down. At that point, you are no longer thinking about comfort, entertainment, or convenience. Your entire being narrows down to one reality: water.

You don't casually "consider" water. You don't politely "include" water in your plans. You desperately seek it because your life depends on it. Some of you have "included" God in your life, but you misunderstand your own predicament. He is not a source of life ... He is **the** source of life.

APP: Have you made Jesus your lifelong pursuit? The world offers many pursuits that feel satisfying in the moment, but they cannot satisfy the soul in the long run. They promise fullness, but they leave us empty. Have you felt that inner thirst that nothing seems to quench? Some of you know what it is to chase achievement, relationships, comfort, or success and still come up dry. Worship is not a weekend activity but a lifelong pursuit of the only One who can satisfy the soul.

2. A mouth that Praises God.

EXP: (3-7) Here we see how David responds to the Lord after seeking Him.

"Steadfast love" (3) (חֶסֶד, *keh-sed*) - lovingkindness, goodness, mercy, favor; OT form of agape. This is also a covenantal type of love, long-suffering (on the part of God) and showing favor on us who are unworthy. As David reflects on the love of God, he responds much like Thomas Brooks, a Biblical commentator said - "no man sets so high a price upon the sun as he that hath long lain in a dark dungeon."

"My lips will praise you" (3) (שָׁבַח, *šābah*) - to laud, praise, commend, glorify. While David is in the desert, he still praises God. You can always control what comes out of your mouth.

"Praise you with joyful lips" (5) (רִנָּה, *rīnā*) - ringing cry, shout (for joy). This one is loud, my praises are not quiet, the world will know that He has satisfied my soul.

"I will sing for joy" (7) (רָנַן, *rānan*) - sing, rejoice, shout for joy, cry out. So, not merely singing, though that is certainly commanded, but use your voice for praise of all kinds.

Psalm 19:14 (KJV) Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

How do we praise Him with our lips? Is it merely when things go well? Consider your speech throughout the day. Does it commend God? Does it glorify Him? Do you have a "work mode" and a "church mode"? If we are truly living a life of worship, and we teach our lips to praise Him, we will do it not only with repetitious words, but we will commend Him to others, at work, in the neighborhood, in the home.

"I will bless you as long as I live" (4) (בָּרַךְ, *bārak*) - to bless, kneel, salute. As long as I live I will bless the Lord. The Psalmist commits to a life of worship regardless of any adversities he might face. Have you thought about what it means to bless God? We often ask for Him to bless us, but how do we bless Him? We do it by living a life subservient to Him. We bend the knee, take ourselves off the throne, look for His hand in our life, and acknowledge His sovereignty.

"In your name I will lift up my hands" (4) (נָשָׂא, *nāšā*) - to lift, bear up, carry, take. He doesn't raise his hands in homage for anyone, he does it in the name of Yahweh. He doesn't worship every passing thing that gives him pleasure, but the one true God, only one name. Psalm 19:1 (ESV) *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.* All of creation demonstrates his majesty, so we

A Worship-Filled Life

Built Different #3 - Pastor Jonathan Combs - June 21, 2026 - Psalm 63:1-8

should do the same. BTW, charismatics do not hold the patent for the lifting up of hands; the practice goes back to OT, so feel free.

Acts 4:12 (ESV) And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other **name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

ARG: Do you practice speech that continually thanks God and acknowledges His name forever:

Psalm 30:11-12 (ESV) "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Hebrews 13:15 (ESV) Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

ILL: The tongue is as volatile as it is vital. It was Washington Irving who first said, 'A sharp tongue is the only edge tool that grows keener with constant use.' It was James, who warned: The tongue is a fire...a restless evil and full of deadly poison (James 3:6,8). Yet it doesn't look anything like the brutal beast it is. Neatly hidden behind ivory palace gates, its movements are an intriguing study of coordination. It can curl itself either into a cheery whistle or manipulate a lazy, afternoon yawn. It can help you enjoy the flavor of a stick of peppermint as it switches from side to side without once getting nipped. Moments later it can follow the directions of a trumpeter, allowing him to play 'Flight of the Bumblebee' without a single miscue. But watch out! Let your thumb get smashed with a hammer or your toe get clobbered on a chair and that slippery creature in your mouth will suddenly play the flip side of its nature. - Charles Swindoll

APP: Will you use your tongue to bless others or curse them? How does your speech reflect the character of God? Do you share gossip in the form of prayer requests? Do we passively participate in tearing down? While most of us here will not directly curse God, are you slandering Him by how you use your voice in the hearing of others? Let's use our voices to praise God, both in audible praising of His name, but in the building up of others.

3. A soul that Meditates on God.

EXP: (5-8) Psalm 63 is not teaching meditation as a discipline for its own sake. David meditates because he is trying to enjoy God, and God uses His revealed Word by His Spirit to satisfy the soul.

"My soul will be satisfied" (5) (שָׂבַע, *śāba*) - to be satisfied, be sated (with food), be fulfilled. The soul doesn't merely have its appetites curbed, no, it's satisfied as with fat and rich food (choicest or best part). I wonder how many of us come into the presence of God with a desire to have minor needs met, but miss the rich meal. Worship is a two-way street: God receives the glory due Him and we are filled to the brim. The apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you **richly**." The richer portion is found in meditating with Jesus and in the power of His Word.

"I remember you" (6) (זָכַר, *zākar*) - to be brought to remembrance, be remembered, be thought of, be brought to mind. This is not a casual memory; this is a purposeful recalling of God's providence. How can one remember?

"Meditate on you" (6) (הִגֵּד, *hāgā*) - to moan, growl, utter, muse, mutter, meditate, devise, plot. Unlike modern Western concepts of meditation (which imply quietly emptying the mind), *hagah* is an active, vocal practice - like a lion growling over its prey or a person softly repeating scripture under their breath.

Friends, we don't simply fill our minds with information. As we meditate on **God's Word**, the Holy Spirit takes that truth and presses it deep into our hearts. He convicts us of sin, comforts us in suffering, strengthens our faith, and transforms our desires. Meditation is the means by which the Spirit renews our

A Worship-Filled Life

Built Different #3 - Pastor Jonathan Combs - June 21, 2026 - Psalm 63:1-8

minds and conforms us to Christ. As we meditate in **Prayer**, God moves our hearts to depend on Him more and trust Him with our desires.

“Watches of the night” (6) - In David’s day they broke up the night into three watches: First Watch (Sunset to 10 pm), Middle Watch (10 pm to 2 am) and Morning Watch (2 am to sunrise). The significance here is not only for those guards charged with keeping watch (who could meditate on the Lord while doing their duty), but those who are sleepless.

“You have been my help” (7) (עֲזָרָה, *‘ezrâ*) - help, succour; one who helps, assistance. Notice this isn’t future tense, but past perfect tense. God has been my help, I trust Him because I have seen it.

“My soul clings to you” (8) (דָּבַק *dāḇaq*) - cling, stick, stay close, cleave. The same word as Gen 2:24: *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* We are to live lives so close to the Lord as to resemble a Biblical marriage, as one flesh.

“Your right hand upholds me” (8) (יָמִין *yāmîn*) - of the right hand; as the stronger and more dexterous (like Benjamin - son of my right hand). This is a recognition of the power of God; realizing that in Him we “live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

ARG: **God repeatedly tells us to meditate on His Word to us:**

Joshua 1:8 (NLT) Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

Psalm 1:1-2 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

The apostle Paul encourages us to meditate on the praiseworthy things from the Lord:

Philippians 4:8 (ESV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

ILL: **#1 The Cow Chewing Its Cud** - The classic illustration of the Hebrew word *hagah*. A cow doesn't simply swallow its food and move on. It chews it, swallows it, brings it back up, and chews it again. It extracts every bit of nourishment possible. That's biblical meditation.

We often treat Scripture like fast food. We read a chapter, check the box, and move on. But God's Word is more like a feast that you graze at all day. Read it, pray it, repeat it, sing it, remember it in the night, and by the end of the day that truth has nourished his soul.

#2 The Song You Can't Get Out of Your Head - You heard it once on the radio, and for the next twelve hours you found yourself humming it without even trying. Why? Because whatever we repeatedly expose ourselves to has a way of settling into our minds. Let God's truth become that song. Let His promises become the thing your mind automatically returns to when life becomes quiet.

APP: Every one of us has a meditation loop. Your mind is always rehearsing something. For some, it's anxiety. For others, it's resentment. Some replay conversations they wish had gone differently. Others rehearse worst-case scenarios that may never happen. Some obsess over their bank account, their retirement, their children's success, or the latest headlines. We become experts at meditating on our problems while remaining novices at meditating on our God.

Whatever you continually rehearse, your heart will eventually believe. Imagine what would happen if we spent as much time rehearsing God's promises as we do rehearsing our problems. What if every anxious thought became a prompt to pray? What if every fear reminded us of a promise? What if every sleepless

A Worship-Filled Life

Built Different #3 - Pastor Jonathan Combs - June 21, 2026 - Psalm 63:1-8

night became an opportunity to remember God's faithfulness? The goal isn't to pretend your problems don't exist; it's to let the greatness of God become bigger in your mind than the size of your problems.

CONCLUSION: Psalm 63 shows us what a “built different” life looks like even in the wilderness. David's circumstances are dry, but his soul is satisfied because his worship is rightly ordered. He **seeks** God with everything he has, he **praises** God with everything he says, and he **meditates** on God with everything he is. And the result is a life that is not merely surviving the wilderness, but worshiping through it.

Ultimately what David longed for, we now find in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true and better Temple, the One in whom God's glory is fully revealed. And through Him, we are not just invited to visit the presence of God occasionally, we are brought near and kept near by His right hand that upholds us. So the question is not just whether we admire David's worship, but whether we will live it. Will we continue to chase what cannot satisfy, or will we be a people who are truly “built different,” whose souls cling to God and find their joy in Him alone?