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Wheeler and Whaley's "The Great Commission to Worship: Biblical Principles for Worship-Based Evangelism" (Book Review)

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actions such as standing, kneeling, and so forth. He devotes a great deal of attention to the character of God, and His worthiness – or as Wolterstorff describes it, His “unsurpassable excellence” (p. 39) – as well as His promises in Scripture to listen to and respond favorably to our worship. The author argues that a right understanding of liturgical theology is critical, as it is one of the three primary dimensions of church tradition (the others being Scriptural and creedal); the church assembles “to enact its liturgy” (p. 167). While not overwhelmingly technical in nature, this book can be characterized as a significantly academic study of the topic, and thus will be more appropriate within academic and seminary library settings.

The Great Commission to Worship: Biblical Principles for Worship-Based Evangelism,

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A first impression of this book might be that the authors have simply taken opposing viewpoints about where our focus should be as Christians and melded them together to form a cohesive picture of how to be successful in the Christian walk. But towards the end, the reader sees that the goal was to produce not merely a picture, but an entire model for cyclical discipleship including a six-week plan that teaches believers not only to become great worshipers but to also reproduce their worship in others. Authors Wheeler and Whaley (both associated with Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary) start with the seemingly competing mandates to worship and to evangelize and show how these functions actually support each other in a symbiotic relationship in what they describe as “great commission worshipers.” Producing disciples who fully engage in both worship and sharing the good news, they maintain, is the true goal of proper discipleship. They tend to be a little wordy at the beginning while they are making the case for their comprehensive discipleship plan, but if the reader holds on, the model revealed at the end is worth the read for anyone with a desire to disciple believers who will actively advance the Kingdom of God. Each chapter ends with discussion questions relating to its content, making this an ideal study guide for a small group learning to disciple others.