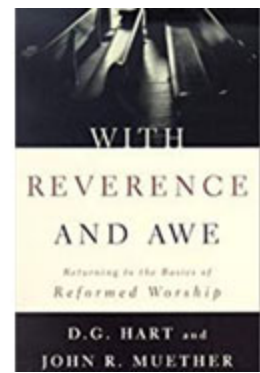


The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print, ^{Isa 51:1}

Collected by Dean Brown



Worship Committee Series on Worship, 1 of 6, for April 28, 2019.

Theology Matters.

Worship inevitably follows from theological conviction. ... Good theology must produce good worship ... Defective theology yields inferior or inappropriate forms of worship.

The Westminster divines did not merely write a confession and catechism, but started with the *Directory for Public Worship of God* before completing the Westminster Standards¹.

We need to say a word here about language. ... Consider, for example, the use of the term *worship experience*. This phrase threatens to eclipse the older expression, **worship service**. ... We believe the difference is enormous. **Service is the work and duty of a servant to and for a superior**. ... The word *experience* redirects the goal of worship, from God-centeredness to man's pleasure. We become the audience or the consumer, and our criteria for good worship shift. [We will think] good worship must excite, exhilarate, and even entertain us.

D. G. Hart and John R. Muether,
With Reverence and Awe: Returning to the Basics of Reformed Worship,
P&R 2002, p. 13-14, 17.

To be continued.

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¹ The *Westminster Confession* and Larger and Shorter Catechisms, 1647, in the back of our hymnals, are doctrinal standards for our denomination. *The Directory of Publick Worship of God*, 1645, with one small exception, is not a standard for the church, but it is a source of wisdom on the subject.