

# 5 WAYS CORPORATE WORSHIP BENEFITS CHRISTIANS

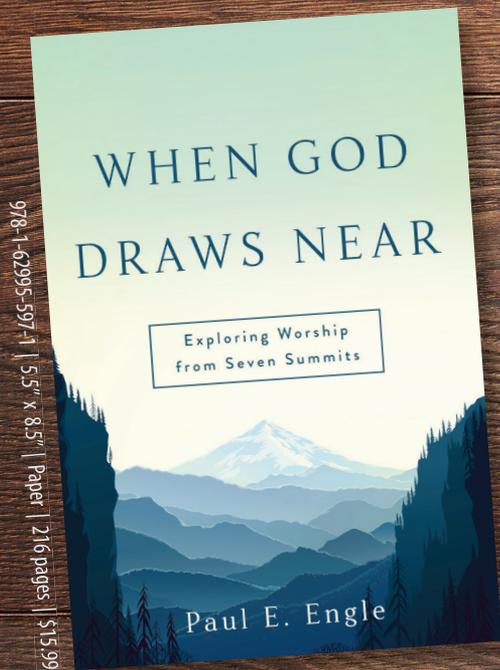
PAUL E. ENGLE

## WHEN GOD DRAWS NEAR

Mountains in Scripture often function as places where God draws near—making himself known to his people. Paul Engle invites you to explore the overarching metaphor of God's presence as we pause at seven mountains to understand the spiritual realities present in corporate worship. By the time our trip is completed, you will have a fresh appreciation for the awesome privilege and rewards of coming into God's presence in God-centered assemblies.

"What an intriguing and readable book on worship geography! Whether or not your worship this Lord's Day felt like a mountaintop experience, Paul Engle uses the mountains of the Bible to explain what happens when Christians gather for worship—and how we might do it better."

—MICHAEL WITTMER, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology and Director of the Center for Christian Worldview, Cornerstone University



**Life is so fast and busy in the twenty-first century** that it can be difficult to consistently reserve time for Sunday morning worship services. Yes, we know that Scripture warns us not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together. But get real! Is it that important to participate in weekly worship every Sunday? Let me share five benefits of participating in corporate worship:

1. Corporate worship helps us to refocus our preoccupations with our personal needs, problems, and feelings in order to focus on the attributes and acts of the triune God. This is a healthy and refreshing recalibration each week.
2. Corporate worship helps to prepare us for heaven by transcending the transitory concerns that weigh us down. If God desires that we spend eternity in the new heaven and earth, it's good to experience a small foretaste each Sunday.
3. Corporate worship helps us to receive fresh biblical preaching that equips us to face the upcoming week with a biblical world and life view. God speaks forcefully in a corporate setting as his anointed servants open the Word for us.
4. Corporate worship spiritually nourishes us as we eat and drink at the Lord's table. What we see and taste

around the table is more nourishing than a tasty steak dinner.

5. Corporate worship touches us at the deepest level as God reveals his presence in worship in a way that doesn't occur in private. Why would a believer relegate Sunday worship to be an optional activity that can be easily replaced by "more important" activities?



**PAUL E. ENGLE** (MDiv, Wheaton College Graduate School; DMin, Westminster Theological Seminary) is an ordained minister who taught as a visiting instructor in the doctor of ministry and practical theology departments of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, New Geneva Theological Seminary, Knox Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, and Dallas Theological Seminary. He also teaches church leaders in the Philippines, Romania, Uganda, Cuba, and East Asia. He is the author of eight books, including *The Baker Wedding Handbook*.

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