

The Battle for Truth?

Part 13 – Worship 2

1

INTRODUCTION

Last time we had begun our study of worship. Worship is misunderstood and diminished in modern Christianity. It has been compartmentalized and limited to a specific part of the service. For many, worship has become more about themselves or music rather than focusing on God Himself.

We need to get back to a proper understanding and practice of worship.

2

TWO ASPECTS OF WORSHIP!

There are two forms of worship. There is inner-worship of the heart and emotions, and outer-worship which we do with the body. These are connected.

Jesus stated,

Matthew 15:8-9

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁹And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

3

THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP

Every religion has some form of worship. What separates True Worship from Idolatry is the object of that worship.

The object of Worship must be our God!

4

RIGHT WORSHIP COMES FROM RIGHT THINKING

Proper worship must be anchored in a proper understanding of who God is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do.

John 4:23-24

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

5

RIGHT WORSHIP AFFIRMS GOD'S WORTH

The English word “worship” comes from worth ship. That is, worship is showing and declaring the worth of God. Proper worship depends on our hearts grasping a right spiritual, emotional, and affectional understanding of God’s Infinite value. True worship is a valuing or a treasuring of God above all things. It results in seeing our relationship with God as the most precious and valuable essence that we have.

Matthew 13:44-46 talks about the Kingdom of God as a treasure so great that a person is willing to go and sell all that he has in order to possess it.

True Worship comes from a heart that acknowledges the infinite worth of God and our relationship with Him!

6

WHAT DOES RIGHT WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?

Worship has two aspects. True worship begins in our heart. It is seeing God in Truth and seeing God (Who He is and What He has done) as precious and valuable. That view of God will overflow into our lives and how we live.

Hebrews 13:15-16

Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

7

WHAT DOES RIGHT WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?

This morning we celebrated who God is and our relationship with Him. We did this together as Corporate Worship. There is something special about praising God together.

God designed us to worship, and worship was also designed for us. I cannot sing praises to my King without being encouraged and blessed by His presence.

8

WHAT DOES RIGHT WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?

However, worship is more than singing a song. In fact, I believe that worship is everything we do. This sermon is my sacrifice of worship to God. Your learning is a celebration of God's truth. Your giving is a sacrifice of worship to further the ministry. Sharing the gospel is worship as it proclaims the love, grace, and mercy of God. Caring for the orphan and widow and those in need is an act of worship as we place the same value on them as God does.

9

MISCONCEPTIONS IN WORSHIP

It is easy to confuse culture and worship. Our prejudice to certain music styles can cause us to reject them as worship.

We must remember that we want Jesus to transform culture so that it glorifies Him, not so that it conforms to our tastes or desires.

There is music my students listen to that is not enjoyable to me – it is not my culture. It is theirs and when I get into conversations, they share the words (often which I cannot understand) and how it has impacted their lives for Christ. It would be wrong to force me to conform to their culture but is also wrong for me to expect them to conform to mine.

Rather their culture and mine must be transformed by the power of Christ to glorify Him!

10

MISCONCEPTIONS IN WORSHIP

Culture is always changing. There is a spiritual battle, and this is especially true in music. I am personally thankful that we did not sing three songs of Gregorian Chant this morning.

As a church, we must try to be culturally relevant. We reach out and minister to many different cultures. You may not always find every song ministering to you but be aware that very song may be ministering deeply in the life of someone else.

Let's not put our focus on music or style, but in the message. We sing in worship to God. Like the disciples we can become offended that "others" were casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus' response – He was thankful that the name of Jesus was being proclaimed!

11

HEBREW WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Here are some Old Testament words that are translated as worship.

- Yâdâh, yaw-daw': To revere or worship with extended hands. To hold out the hands. Yâdâh is a Hebrew word that invites us to raise our hands in thanksgiving.
- Hâlal, haw-lal': To boast. To rave. To shine. To celebrate. To give exuberant praise. Hâlal is a Hebrew word that encourages us to uninhibited worship. A secular picture of Hâlal is a sports stadium erupting into excitement as the home team wins the championship. I believe that this will be our excitement as we one day will stand before the throne of God.

12

HEBREW WORDS FOR WORSHIP

- Zâmar, zaw-mar´: To make music. To celebrate in song and music. To touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument. Zâmar is a Hebrew word that reminds us that God loves instrumental praise.
- Tôwdâh, to-daw´: An extension of the hand. Thanksgiving. A confession. A sacrifice of praise. Thanksgiving for things not yet received. A choir of worshippers. Tôwdâh is a Hebrew word that reminds us that thanksgiving is an offering pleasing to God. It redirects our minds to the beauty and joy of God's goodness in our lives.

13

HEBREW WORDS FOR WORSHIP

- Bârak, baw-rak´: To kneel. To bless God (as an act of adoration). To praise. To salute. To thank. Barak is a Hebrew word that calls us to kneel in submission before our God. This is a counterbalance to some of the other words for praise. There are times that we are going to be so overwhelmed by God's goodness that we will shout and jump up and down in praise. There are other times that we need to quiet ourselves and kneel before God in surrender!
- Tehillâh, teh-hil-law´: Laudation. A hymn. A song of praise. A new song. A spontaneous song. Tehillâh is a Hebrew word that encourages us to sing praise to God. We are reminded that God designed us to be able to sing and that He loves singing. Singing should be a part of our worship!

14

HEBREW WORDS FOR WORSHIP

• Shâbach, shaw-bakh´: To address in a loud tone. To shout. To commend, glory, and triumph. Shâbach is a Hebrew word that encourages us to praise God with a loud voice. We all understand this word in the sports context. We cheer for our team. We shout when they score. We may even argue loudly with others about how great our team is. But in the sacred context we often forget that our God is much more worthy of our boisterous praise than any sports team could ever be.

15

WORSHIP DEMONSTRATED

Heaven is all about worship.

Revelation 4

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

16

WORSHIP DEMONSTRATED

Revelation 4

⁶ Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. ⁸ *The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”

17

WORSHIP DEMONSTRATED

Revelation 4

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

18

SO WHAT ...

To truly worship we need to make Jesus the Lord of our lives. We need to be studying Scripture and seeking out what He would have us do. We need to take our sin seriously and surrender these areas to His control.

When it comes to corporate worship it is ok to close your eyes and imagine yourself singing the words to God. It is ok to lift your hands in surrender to God.

Our God is so awesome. His grace is so abundant, and His mercy is so deep. We have so much to praise and worship Him for!

I have asked the "Worship Team" to close with the Revelation Song. It comes out of Revelation 4-5. I encourage you to close your eyes, imagine yourself before the throne of God, and to sing this praise to Him!