

Week 42 – Worship: God is Revealed

Worship

The Call to Worship

Before leaving His disciples, Jesus promised He would come by the presence of the Holy Spirit to those who gathered in His Name (Matthew 18:20). The Scripture, likewise, makes it clear that God the Father is seeking out those who will be His true worshipers.

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

“Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.” (Psalm 66:1-2)

The early church passionately worshipped the Lord, both privately and collectively (Acts 2:43, 47). God responded to this worship with His refreshing presence and the salvation of the lost. A corporate worship time typically brings God’s refreshing presence to His own.

The Necessity of Praise

Acts 2:47 speaks of the church “praising God.” Typically, praises toward God are vocal. Most church services also use musical instruments as part of the praise service. The Psalms exhort us to worship:

- In the congregation (Psalm 22:22)
- To usher in God’s presence (Psalm 22:3)
- To release God’s power (Psalm 84:4-7)
- To release joy and gladness for us and others (Psalm 95:1-2)

The Necessity of Worship

Worship is a broader experience than praise. It is expressive but can be quiet, reflective, or can be expressed in many different ways, including kneeling, or lying prostrate as one would in approaching a king. Worship glorified God by honoring Him as well as humbling ourselves. We owe Him our very existence, thus we worship Him. Through worship, we are changed.

“Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” (Psalm 95:6)

“...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...” (Ephesians 5:19)

Biblical Forms of Praise and Worship

A public gathering time for God’s people should exuberantly celebrate the Risen Lord. Unfortunately, some places are bound up by the traditions of men and it’s more like punching a time clock than enjoying God’s presence. The following forms of praise and worship were regular components of Old Testament worship as commanded by Jehovah God. These forms were carried over into New Testament worship; they were never done away with but are still practiced to this day.

- Singing (Psalm 30:4, Psalm 95:1; Ephesians 5:19; James 5:13)
- Shouting (Psalm 35:2, Psalm 47:1)
- Clapping (Psalm 47:1, Psalm 98:8)
- Musical Instruments (2 Samuel 6:5; Psalm 33:1-3, Psalm 150)
- Dancing (Exodus 15:20; 1 Samuel 18:6; 2 Samuel 6:14-16; Psalm 149:3; Luke 15:25)
- Kneeling (Psalm 95:6; Luke 22:41; Acts 20:36)
- Lifting of Hands (Psalm 134, Psalm 141:2; 1 Timothy 2:8)

The Glory of God in Worship

“...in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the Lord saying, ‘He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting,’ then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.” (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)

One benefit of praise is the perspective it gives us. It reminds us that God is great, which helps minimize anxiety about trials we may be facing.

Recommended Reading

Glory: A Jerusalem Experience, Ruth Ward Heflin

The Power of His Presence, Graham Truscott

Review

1. Why does the Bible call us to worship God? What are some Biblical forms of worship?
2. Why is praise necessary?