Giving God the Worship He Deserves

(Selected Scriptures)
2/18/07

Introduction: We were created and redeemed to worship! Isaiah 43:21

I. God is Worthy of Worship (Psalm 29:2; Revelation 4:8-11)

*God is worthy of your Worship! (Rev. 4:8-11)
2 Reasons:

A. God is worthy of your Worship because of WHO HE IS (v. 8)
Praise His Purity, Power & Permanence

B. God is worthy of your Worship because of WHAT HE HAS DONE (v. 11)

Essentials to True Worship:

1. A deep sense of one's own unworthiness (v. 10
2. A recognition that God is worthy of all praise (v. 11a)
3. A desire to bring to God the pleasure that is due Him (v. 11b)

II. Do I Qualify to Worship? (Psalm 24:3-6)

A. Are my Actions Clean?

B. Is my Heart Pure?

C. Is my Soul Focused?

D. Are my Words Truth?

III. How Do I Truly Worship? (John 4:20-24)

Worship is the natural response to God working revival in my heart by His Word -Neh. 9:3

How do I worship God?
How did Jesus describe true worship? (John 4:20-24)

A. True Worship is NOT CONFINED to a Place (v. 20, 21)

B. True Worship is SINGULAR in its Source (v. 22)

C. True Worship is SOUGHT by the Father (v. 23)

D. True Worship is According to SPIRIT and TRUTH (v. 24)

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Worship is the supreme and only indispensable activity of the Christian Church. It alone will endure, like the love for God which it expresses, into heaven, when all other activities of the Church will have passed away.
W. Nicholls
in Jacob's Ladder: The Meaning of Worship

God alone is worthy of your worship. Whatever else you worship – ambition, money, appetite, beauty, affection, friends – all of them, one by one, like the heavenly bodies, set and disappear. But God remains. Jesus Christ remains. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Give Him first place in your life. Give Him your devotion, your strength, and your love. Worship God. Worship Him exclusively. Worship Him supremely. Worship Him humbly. Worship Him consistently. But above all else – Worship Him! He alone is worthy.
William J. McRae
The Nature of True Worship

For worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose
William Temple
Archbishop of Canterbury

Introduction: We were created and redeemed to worship!

Song: "I Was Made to Praise the Lord."

All of us are on this Earth to fulfill a purpose. Ultimately we are here to glorify God; We live for the grand purpose of doing "all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

We were created and Redeemed that we might know God; spend time with God; walk with God; and to serve God.

We were made for God:

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made **all *things* for himself**

Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed **for myself**; they shall shew forth my praise.

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and **to him, *are* all things**: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

Hebrews 2:10 ¶ For it became him, **for whom *are* all things**, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- **We were created and redeemed to bring pleasure to God:**

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and <u>for thy pleasure</u> [for Thy desire] ***they are and were created.***

God created all things for himself.
Romans 11:36
For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

"The prayer of the upright is His <u>delight</u>" (Prov. 15:8)

God <u>created</u> man (and all of creation) to bring pleasure to Himself (We accomplish his by fulfilling His will - I Th. 5:18)

Why live for God? It's not that there is some emotion in God that needs to be satisfied; but when we speak of pleasing God, we speak of fulfillment of His will and desire.

All creation exists presently ("they <u>are</u>" - present tense) to fulfill God's desires.

If the heavens declare God's glory (Ps. 19:1), why shouldn't God's people?
Cp. Triumphal Entry (Lk. 19:37-40) - "The stones would immediately cry out"

Ps. 50:23 - "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me."

Heb. 13:15 - "The sacrifice of praise"
Colossians 1:16 For by him [Christ] ***were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, <u>and for</u> <u>him</u>:***

Now, more than any time in human history, there are more distractions to capture the attention of God's people so as to divert them and render them unfruitful for God.

Since the industrial revolution and picking up steam every day, today there exist more

- gadgets,
- consumer products (computers, electronic gismos for all ages)

- entertainments, amusements, & sports
- communication devises, such as telephones, cell phones, email, instant messaging,
- toys for all ages,
- recreational opportunities,
- motion pictures (movies, videos, DVD's),
- audio devises (radios, CD players),
- printed materials (newspapers, magazines, & books),
- mind altering substances (drugs & various forms of alcohol),
- various mediums for pornography,
- hobbies galore
- Transportation devises (the time spent on the Car)
- Home improvement resources
- Financial opportunities (more places to earn it, spend it, invest it etc.)

(not all of which are necessarily sinful, but can be weights

Today there is more to catch the eye
more to pull on the heart
more to tease the lust
more to take up our brief time on earth
than ever before in human history

Basically the pursuit of other things, pleasures, & relationships take the heart away from God; Not to mention the maintenance of the "stuff"

We are BUSY, BUSY, BUSY with no time for God!

No wonder John the Baptist chose a simple life (both in clothing & dining)
No wonder Jesus traveled light (without even a pillow to lay his head)
No wonder Paul said it is advantageous to remain single (if one was so gifted)
No wonder the Monks chose the secluded monasteries
No wonder the Amish chose the isolated lifestyle (though they often lack the true knowledge of God, Grace and basically have zero impact on the World at large)

It is in the heart of all people to worship (But due to sin & spiritual ignorance, people know not what or how to worship without God's intervention)

Everyone Worships (though most worship is false worship)
Isaiah 2:8 -Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Isaiah 44:15-17
Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it;

he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. [16] He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: [17] And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

Even Demons worship: Mark 5:6
But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

God makes no allowance for misplaced worship
Exodus 34:14
For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

To worship a false god is to reap a rotten, good for nothing life
Jeremiah 13:10
This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

Worship is a natural response to seeing His glory & Power
2 Chron. 7:3
And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Worship is possible even in the midst of the deepest trial & misery
Job 1:20
Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

2 Samuel 12:20
Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

One day all flesh will worship God (in the Millennial Kingdom)
Isaiah 66:23
And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.

Worship: An obligation, not an option
Matthew 4:10
Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

I. God is Worthy of Worship (Psalm 29:2; Revelation 4:8-11)

Psalm 29:2
Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

He is Creator & Judge of all
Rev. 14:7
Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

***God is worthy of your Worship! (Rev. 4:8-11)**

2 Reasons:

A. God is worthy of your Worship because of <u>WHO HE IS</u> (v. 8)
(His Attributes)

"Rest not" - unceasing praise! Non-stop adoration! They do not pause in their praise.

Contrast: No rest of giving praise, with the no rest of those in torment forever (Rev. 14:9-11).

1. Praise His <u>Purity</u>

2. Praise His <u>Power</u>

3. Praise His <u>Permanence</u>
"was..is..is to come" - God is eternal!
. He is the:
1) *El Olam* (the everlasting God) (Gen. 21:33)
2) *Alpha and Omega* (" - T) (Rev. 1:11; 21:6; 22:13)
3) *I AM* (Exod. 3:14)
4) *The Ancient of Days* (Dan. 7:9, 13, 22)

B. God is worthy of your Worship because of <u>WHAT HE HAS DONE</u> (v. 11)
(His Actions)

4:9

"Glory" - to give credit where credit is due.

"Honor" - to view as priceless; beyond value.

"Thanks - to show appreciation.

"Thanks" - one of the first words we appreciation hearing from our children is "thank you" (which at first sounds something like "Dit-do").

How could we be so ungrateful?
4:10
The four beasts give the cue (v. 9), and in succession the 24 elders fall down to worship (v. 10)

NOTE: In Rev. 4, the praise goes to God as creator (v. 11); in Rev. 5, the praise goes to God as Redeemer (v. 9ff).
Essentials to True Worship:

1. A deep sense of one's own unworthiness (v. 10

"Cast their crowns" - depicts an attitude of unworthiness to wear the crowns. They view themselves as not worthy of recognition or honor. All honor goes to the Lord.

2. A recognition that God is worthy of all praise (v. 11a)

"Worship" = an old English word that meant worth-ship. To ascribe worth to one.

God is worthy; only God is worthy ("worship God" - Rev. 19:10; 22:9).

Sinful man tends to worship and serve the creature more than the Creator (Rom. 1:25).

3. A desire to bring to God the pleasure that is due Him (v. 11b)

God created all things for himself.

Romans 11:36
For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

Col. 1:16
For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be*

thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

"The prayer of the upright is His delight" (Prov. 15:8)

"Pleasure" - will or desire"

God created man (and all of creation) to bring pleasure to Himself (We accomplish his by fulfilling His will - I Th. 5:18)

All creation exists presently ("they are" - present tense) to fulfill God's desires.

Make this your goal!

If the heavens declare God's glory (Ps. 19:1), why shouldn't God's people?

II. Do I Qualify to Worship? (Psalm 24:3-6)

Upon the heels of Ps. 23:6 which expressed David's longing desire to be in God's house, is Ps. 24:1-6 which describes the qualifications of one who may enter and v. 7-10 which describes Yahweh's (Jesus') entrance into Mt. Zion.

Verses 1 & 2 describe the sovereignty of God. Therefore, He must not be approached lightly. He also is not limited to a single location. However, He said He would meet with His people at the "place He would appoint" - the Temple.

"The Hill of the Lord" = God's "holy hill of Zion."

"His Holy Place" = the Temple (Psalm 65:4 - "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple."

READ Deut. 12:5-7.

Background to Temple: It was the place where man met God. EX: Daniel while in Babylon prayed toward the Temple. The most holy site in Israel. The Temple was the place of sacrifice, the place of fellowship and prayers, the place of worship.

These moral requirements are similar to those in Psalm 15.

ILLUS: of necessity of qualifying for sports, job, school, a girlfriend with standards, etc.

Not everyone gets to sit down with the President of the USA.

Not everyone gets to enter God's presence. He is holy.

--Who is <u>worthy</u> of the privilege of drawing close to God?

--Who has the <u>character</u> that will earn the right to stand in the presence of the Lord of the universe?

--Who <u>qualifies</u> to be in close fellowship with God?

A. Are my Actions Clean?

"Clean hands" - clean = free from whatever stains or pollutes.

The priests would wash their hands in the laver (10 round water basins plus one large one) before they would minister in God's presence in the Temple.

You can't expect to commit sexual immorality, drunkenness, theft, etc., and boldly come into the presence of God!

If our hands are not clean, let us wash them in Jesus' precious blood.

"But if we walk in the light as He is . . . blood . . . cleanses." (I Jn. 1:7)

"If we confess our sins . . . cleanse." (I Jn. 1:9).

B. Is my Heart Pure?

Clean hands (actions) are not enough unless they are connected with a pure heart (attitude)

"True religion is heart work" (Spurgeon).

We may wash the outside of the cup all we want, but the inside is what really matters.

David cried out: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10).

Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Mt. 5:8)
"Blessed are the pure in heart. . ."Matthew 5:8

--Religion is no substitute for being pure in heart.

--Knowing Bible facts is no substitute for being pure in heart.

Living in a "glass bubble" (in isolation from the "rif-raf" of society) is no substitute for a pure heart (Monasticism does not eradicate our problem).

What is a pure heart?

1.It is a sincere heart
I Pet. 1:22 - "*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently*"

The word "pure" (katharos) was a Greek term "often used of metals that had been refined until all impurities were removed, leaving only the pure metal. In that sense, purity means unmixed, unalloyed, unadulterated" (MacArthur, p. 204)

2.It is a righteous heart
God's standard for purity of heart is perfection of heart (Mt. 5:48).
100% purity is God's standard (MacArthur, p. 205). Such a standard can only be met if God gives us a heart transplant!

Being pure in heart is the opposite of:

--Lustful thoughts (Mt. 5:28 - "*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*")

--Materialistic thoughts (Mt. 6:21 - "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*")

"*God knoweth your hearts*" (Lk. 16:15)

God will expose what is really on the inside of men's hearts (I Cor. 4:5 - "*Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts; and then each one's praise will come from God*" NKJV)

What lost sinners need is a spiritual heart transplant (Ezek. 36:25-26)

Rather than patching your exterior to hide the interior, why not ask God to create in you a clean heart? (Ps. 51:10).

We should spend more time on being what we ought to be, rather than hiding what we are."

Applic. for Christian - Just as one would remove dirt, filth, and contamination from a glass or drinking container before filling it and drinking out of it, so God must purify a heart before He can fill it or use it.

You can't fight with your mate, refuse to do your role in your marriage, and think God is pleased with you.

Wives who will not submit and husbands who are bitter toward their wives will not have their prayers answered (I Pet. 3:7).

C. Is my Soul Focused?

This phrase has the similar idea as Ezek. 18:15, which speaks of one "lifting up his eyes to the idols." God does not want us to acknowledge any other "gods."

"Coveteousness is idolatry" (Col. 3:5).

In whatever you find "joy", that is what your soul is "lifted up" unto.

God expects undivided loyalty (just as a husband would from his wife).

You can't bow down to vain materialism, pride, or worldliness, and expect God to welcome you into His presence.

D. Are my Words Truth?

"Swears" = the Hebrew word comes from the word "seven" (7). Since seven was a sacred number, oaths were confirmed either by seven victims offered in sacrifice, or by seven witnesses.

"Deceitfully" = to cast down, or let fall. Your word does not stand.

No intention to do what you promise.

We give our word in:

1) Marriage (vows taken)
2) Church membership (ch. covenant agreed upon)
3) The business world (sign on the dotted line)
4) Friendships(shake hands on it)
5) Court ("I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me God.")
6) Prayer(promises to God)

Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord (Jud. 11:30) and did not go back on his word.

He said to his daughter: "I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back" (v. 35).

"Let your yea be yea . . ."

III. How Do I Truly Worship? (John 4:20-24)

Worship is the natural response to God working revival in my heart by His Word -Neh. 9:3

And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the Lord their God.

How do I worship God?

How did Jesus describe true worship? (John 4:20-24)

1. True Worship is <u>NOT CONFINED</u> to a Place (v. 20, 21)

2. True Worship is <u>SINGULAR</u> in its Source (v. 22)

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4. True Worship is According to SPIRIT and TRUTH (v. 24)

a) "Spirit"
The way of worship is spiritual -

- True Worship is led by the Holy Spirit
- True Worship is Spiritual, Not Carnal (not ritual)
- True Worship involves the Spirit of man

Worship must be intimate. We do not come perfunctorily before a God we worship technically but not personally. Worship is a deep-life experience which is both based on and climaxes in personal fellowship and intimacy with God. (Sam Horn, Northland Baptist Bible College)
We must come to God in worship with the right heart. Israel may have come to God at the right time, to the right place, with the right offering; However, it did not please God, if it did not come from the right heart.

Worship must be intense. We are to engage in worship with all of our strength, through all of our life, in all of our ways, for all of our days. (Sam Horn, Northland Baptist Bible College)

b) "Truth"
The basis of worship is Truth

- True Worship is sincere Worship (not hypocrital or to be seen of men)
- True worship is confined within the limits of Scripture - the Bible which is truth (John 17:17; Rom. 10:17)

If we are going to render intentional and acceptable worship, then we must understand what constitutes acceptable worship and what doesn't. Since God is the source of all true worship, He alone has the right to establish the boundaries of acceptable worship, and He has given us His Word to inform us of those boundaries. (Sam Horn, Northland Baptist Bible College)

We don't go to the culture to find out how to worship God. The Bible supercedes cultural style of worship.

What is the driving force behind most worship in our society today? How it makes the worshipper feel.

God is not as casual about worship as we think He is. Just because someone worships sincerely does not mean they worship correctly or Biblically.

When it comes to worship, there are two major views on what is acceptable.

Some say: Anything that is practiced in the N.T. is how we ought to worship. (This is the regular position, held to by the Westminster Confession)

But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the holy Scripture. *(Westminster Confession of Faith)*

Others say: Anything that is not prohibited in the N.T. is acceptable for worship. (This view would allow for more variations in worship style)

The closer we know God, the more aware we will be of what pleases God; what is acceptable to God. If I went to buy a dress for my wife (even if she was not with me) I would have some knowledge of what she would like and not like. Why? Because I have come to know her over 21 years.

<u>Private Worship</u>

1. Set apart a time to get alone with God each day

Ps 63:1 <<A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.>> O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

2. Humbly bow before God

When we worship, we are not coming to worship an equal. Worship is an inferior bowing to a superior. Such humility should be reflected in our worship.

Genesis 24:48

And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

Exodus 34:8
And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Psalm 95:6
O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

3. Confess and forsake any known sin (that will hinder communion)

1 Chron. 16:29
Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

4. Acknowledge Him for Who He is

5. Thank & Praise Him for what He has done

6. Recite Psalms & Sing Praises to Him

Eph 5:19 - Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Public Worship

When we show up on Sunday to worship, this is not practice time; We are actually engaging in connecting with God.

1. Pray with focus
Mt 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

2. Sing from the heart
Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

3. Give with cheerfulness

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

4. Serve with love for God

Mt 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.
Mt 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.