Worship



(The Grand Purpose for our Existence)

(Selected Scriptures)

3/13/05

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

- **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 way) - Isaiah 2:8; Isaiah 44:15-17
- **Even Demons worship**: Mark 5:6
- **God makes no allowance for misplaced worship** Exodus 34:14
- **To worship a false god is to reap a rotten, good for nothing life & future -** Jeremiah 13:10
- **Worship is a natural response to seeing His Glory & Power -** 2 Chron. 7:3
- **Worship is possible even in the midst of the deepest trial & misery -** Job 1:20; 2 Samuel 12:20
- **One day all flesh will worship God (in the Millennial Kingdom)** Isaiah 66:23
- **Worship: An obligation, not an option -** Matthew 4:10

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 <u>WHO HE IS</u> (v. 8)
Praise His <u>Purity, Power & Permanence</u>

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

Essentials to True Worship:

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

II. I was made to 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)

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)
3. True Worship is <u>SOUGHT</u> by the Father (v. 23)
4. True Worship is According to <u>SPIRIT</u> and <u>TRUTH</u> (v. 24)

A. Private Worship

1. **Set apart a time to get alone with God each day -** *Ps 63:1*
2. **Humbly bow before God -** *Genesis 24:48; Exodus 34:8; Psalm 95:6*
3. **Confess and forsake any known sin (that will hinder communion)**
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*

B. Public Worship

1. **Pray with focus -** *Mt 6:7*
2. **Sing from the heart -** *Col 3:16*
3. **Give with cheerfulness -** *2Co 9:7*
4. **Serve with love for God -** *Mt 6:1-2*

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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</u> <u>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>

They praise God's Holiness

Everything <u>about God</u> is HOLY
His <u>Attributes</u>
His <u>Name</u> (reputation) (Ps.99:3; 111:9; Ezek.36:20-22)
His <u>Works</u> (Ps.145:17)
His <u>Glory</u> (Light) (Exod. 15:11; Is.6:3; I John 1:5-7)
His <u>Spirit</u> (Ps.51:11; Is.63:10)

Everything <u>belonging to God</u> is HOLY
His Holy <u>Nation</u> (Exod.19:6)

His Holy Place (the Temple) (Ps.11:4; 65:4)
His Holy People (Dt.7:6; 14:2)
His Holy City (Jerusalem) (Ps.2:6; Is.52:1; 66:20)
His Holy Camp (Dt.23:14)
His Holy Levites (II Chron.35:3)
His Holy Ark (II Chron.35:3)
His Holy Days (Lev.23; Is.58:13)
His Holy Promise (Ps.105:42; Lk.1:72)
His Holy Scriptures (Rom.1:2)
His Holy Prophets (Luke 1:70)

Everywhere God is HOLY
"Holy Ground" (Ex.3:5; Josh.5:15)
"Holy Habitation" (Deut.26:15)
"The Throne of His Holiness" (Ps.47:8)

2. Praise His Power

"Lord God Almighty"

God's DESCRIPTION of His Power

1) God's power is exclusive (Ps. 62:11)
(It belongs to Him alone)

2) God's power is eternal
Is. 26:4 - "Trust ye in the LORD forever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."
God's power never changes, never diminishes, never grows or increases; but is always the same.

3) God's power is inexhaustible
God's power never diminishes (He never loses strength).
Is. 40:28 - "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."

4) God's power is incomparable
God is more powerful than the Laws of nature or nature itself (Ps. 147:5); Leviathan (Job 41:10); all the inhabitants of the earth (Is. 40:22); none can compare with Him (Jer. 10:6).

5) God's power is boundless
(It knows no limits outside of God)
Job 42:2 - "I know that Thou canst do everything."

3. Praise His Permanence

"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)
(Note: God is viewed with white hair, depicting His ancientness)

"From <u>everlasting to everlasting</u> Thou art God" (Ps. 90:2)
"Now unto the King <u>eternal</u>, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory <u>forever and ever</u>. Amen." (I Tim. 1:17)

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 <u>creator</u> (v. 11); in Rev. 5, the praise goes to God as <u>Redeemer</u> (v. 9ff).
Essentials to True Worship:

1. A deep sense of one's own <u>unworthiness</u> (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 <u>worthy of all</u> 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. I was made to 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)

3. True Worship is <u>SOUGHT</u> by the Father (v. 23)

4. True Worship is According to <u>SPIRIT</u> and <u>TRUTH</u> (v. 24)

a) "Spirit"

The way of worship is <u>spiritual</u> -

- 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.

Private Worship

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 <u>in the beauty of holiness</u>.

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.