

What is Worship? – Part 4
Responding to the Revelation of God

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AM Service

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Text:

Psalm 8:1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2: Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 3: When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5: For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6: Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8: The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. 9: O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Introduction

It was the late A. W. Tozer who wrote these words many years ago, *“Worship in our time has been captured by the tourist mind set. Worship is understood as a visit to an attractive site to be made when we have adequate leisure. For some it is a weekly jaunt [outing] to church. For others, occasional visits to special services. Some, with a bent for Christian entertainment and sacred diversion, plan their lives around special events like retreats, rallies and conferences. We go to see a new personality, to hear a new truth, to get a new experience and so, somehow, expand our otherwise humdrum lives. We'll try anything -- until something else comes along.”*

I pray that does not describe our attitude toward worship. What is worship all about? That's what we have been considering these days. **One of the greatest privileges** we have in life as human beings is to worship God. But sadly **we have squandered this privilege** by sinful rebellion. This is one of the reasons why Jesus Christ left the glories of Heaven – **to restore rebel sinners to true worshipers.**

For the last four Sundays I have been bringing sermons on worship which I believe will **help us as we seek to cultivate a discipline of worship** in our lives. May God build us more and more into a congregation of real worshipers. I want to see God build us into a people who would **live passionately for His glory and honor.**

So what is worship? So far we have learned first of all that worship is **bowing down before the presence of God.** It is bowing down on our knees and falling on our faces before God

with **humility, reverence and submission**. Worship first and foremost is about me recognizing that **God is God and I am not**. It is about me recognizing that **God is the Creator and I am the created one** - frail and sinful and must approach Him with humility, reverence and submission.

Secondly, worship is **declaring the Worth of God**. Worship is ascribing the worth of God. When we come to worship God we come to **declare that He is worthy** and that He alone is worthy of worship. This is what worship is meant to be. **Worship tells us what we value most**. What a person worships is a good indication of what is really important or valuable to him. Worship is saying, *“This person, this thing, this activity, this experience is what matters most to me.”*

It's **anything I put first in my life** and this is **expressed and exhibited with our lips and with our lives**.

Louie Giglio wrote, *“So how do you know where and what you worship? It's easy. You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your loyalty. At the end of that trail you'll find a throne; and whatever, or whomever, is on that throne is what's of highest value to you. On that throne is what you worship. The trail (beaten path) never lies. We may say we value this thing or that thing more than any other, but the volume of our actions speaks louder than our words.”*

So at the end of your trail who or what is sitting on the throne? Is it the true and living God or an idol?

This morning consider with me the third important truth about worship which is ...

III - Worship is Responding to the God's Revelation

Warren Wiersbe defines worship this way, *“Worship is the believers' response of all that they are—mind, emotions, will, and body—to what God is and says and does ... It is a loving response that's balanced by the fear of the Lord, and it is a deepening response as the believer comes to know God better.”*

In other words, **worship is our spontaneous response to God's revelation**. Three words to consider this morning - **Revelation, Response and Spontaneous**.

1. Revelation

As we continue to consider what worship is, we must understand the basis of true worship. **True worship does not originate with man**. It does not originate with the need of man but with God and His glory. Not only is worship all about God; **worship also begins with God**. Worship is the result of the God revealing Himself.

We can teach men to say the **right things** and sing the **right songs** and to be in the **right place** at the **right time** and call it true worship. **But we cannot make them true worshipers**. Only God can do that and He does it by revealing His **character**, His **person**, His **works**, His **ways**,

His **plans**, His **purposes**, His **grace**, His **greatness**, His **glory**. When a man sees that he becomes a worshiper. Worship is **man's response to perceived greatness** as God reveals Himself.

God from the beginning of time **has been active in revealing who He is**. He has done so through many ways. First of all we have God's written word **the Bible** revealing to us who God is, what He is like, what He has done and what He is doing. **Scripture reveals God's greatness and worth**. What a blessing it is to have the Word of God in our own language. Do you realize that there are **at least 1.5 billion** people who **do not have the full Bible** in their language? But the Bible is available to us in a language we can read and understand. What a gift!

But that's not the only way God reveals Himself to us. We also have God's creation!

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2: Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3: There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4: Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5: Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6: His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Psalm 8:1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2: Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 3: When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

God's creation reveals God's glory. God, through the things He has made reveals His **power**, His **majesty**, His **wisdom**, His **goodness**, His **greatness**. And **creation** is a source of revelation and that's **available to everybody in every language** so there is no excuse.

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20: For **the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse**:

And then there is **the Lord Jesus Christ; God's ultimate revelation of Himself**.

John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Jesus reveals the Father to us **completely and perfectly**.

Colossians 1:15 Who is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature:

Jesus Christ who was begotten before anything was created and is supreme over all creation is **the visible image of the invisible God**.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, **the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.

We have seen Jesus' glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3: Who being the **brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

In the past God spoke to the ancient Jews through the prophets at many times and in many different ways, but in the last days He has spoken to us by His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, that is, He is **the shining radiance of God's glory and the exact image and representation of God.**

God revealed Himself to us in so many ways but He specially reveals Himself through creation, through **His word**, and most fully and completely **through His Son**. God reveals Himself to us and worship is our response to God's revelation of Himself. **We see God and we respond.**

2. Response

Worship is a response to God's revelation. This is what this year's theme means - Real Worship - It all begins with God! God initiates. **God reveals Himself and we respond.** Worship is to recognize who God is as He reveals Himself and to fall prostrate before Him in response.

Understand that a man does not become a worshiper merely by saying, "*Now I shall become a worshiper.*" That is impossible. That cannot be done. **A man becomes a worshiper when he sees something great** that calls forth his admiration and his worship. We become real worshipers when we see and experience God's revelation of His greatness and worth. **Unless we see God for Who He is, His greatness and His worth, we cannot worship Him.**

Now, when things are revealed to us that we find important, we respond to them. **When we see something and it has worth to us we just naturally respond.** Just observe how people will watch the Super Bowl today and you can tell if they care about the game or not. Of course people have different personalities; some are more demonstrative than others. But the truth is if you are watching your son play in little league baseball and he hits a game winning homerun you will respond. I don't care how proper and dignified you are, you will respond when your child makes that play. With great passion and excitement you will respond. **We respond to what is important to us, to what we perceive has value.**

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made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6: Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8: The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. 9: O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

As David sees the glory and majesty of God in creation he burst out in worship and praise - O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Worship is our response to the revelation of God. **He reveals majesty, and we bow our hearts** in reply. **He shows us His greatness and worth, and we respond with joyful song of praise.** He reveals glory and majesty, and **we respond with a life seeking to honor Him in our words and actions.**

3. Spontaneous

Real worship is spontaneous. Spontaneous means **unforced, unrehearsed, and unplanned.** It means voluntary **without premeditation** or external stimulus. True worship does not have to be pumped and primed; it is **the outpouring of a heart that is filled with the sense of God's goodness, greatness and glory.**

It is like the parents whose child just hit a game winning homerun. They will respond spontaneously with excitement and enthusiastic cheer that is not planned, not coerced, not forced, and not pressed but free and voluntary. It is the **natural reflex** of the parents **because they value their child.** That's also how worship works!

In [Psalm 45:1](#), David said it this way, [My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.](#)

The word “**inditing**” means “**to keep moving**”. It has the idea of “**boiling over, or bubbling up**” like a boiling pot of water. As David contemplated on the glory and majesty of God, **his heart boiled over with love and praise for His God.** When his full heart overflowed, worship ascended to God.

Worship is **what naturally flows** out of us **when the eyes of our understanding** have been **opened** and we see the greatness and the glory of God. **It's the voluntary and unrehearsed response to all of who He is and to all He has done.**

My prayer is that **God would open our eyes** that we might see Him with **the eyes of our heart.** Apostle Paul prays this for his fellow believers,

[Ephesians 1:15](#) Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, [16: Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18: **The eyes of your understanding** \[eyes of your heart\] **being enlightened**; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, \[19: And what is the exceeding greatness of his power\]\(#\)](#)

to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20: Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Closing Thoughts

Worship is about revelation and response. **You will not and cannot respond to something or someone you have not seen and you do not know.** God needs to be known before He can be worshiped. This is why **it is important to be in the Word of God** as believers for God makes Himself known through the pages of His Word. **Those who know Him best worship Him most.**

If worship is the response of a believer to God's revelation of His greatness, majesty, glory, and grace and we respond dispassionately **the problem is not in God's revelation, but in our reception.**

We read in [Psalm 145:3](#), [Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.](#)

The LORD is great and worthy to be greatly and exceedingly praised. So **when God is not greatly praised, it's only because we don't think He's that great of a God.** When our worship is small, it's because our concept of God is small. When we offer half-hearted praise and worship it's **because we have a distracted heart and a clouded vision of God.**

Let me close with this poem ...

Do you know why I worship God?

It is not because I am commanded to. It is not because it is a facet of religion. Or it is a rite of some denomination that I belong to and therefore I have to do it to fit in its creed, no!

Do you know why I worship God?

It is not because some egotistical Creator desires my worship and needs it to be more of a god because he doesn't. It's not because by doing so I feel much better and my blood pressure is lower even, no!

Do you know why I worship God?

Because it is a reaction of the creature before its Creator; of the son before its father, of a prince before its king. It is because when I study Him and see that He transcends time and space that He is sovereign over this country, come what may. That He is in absolute control of my life I then fall down and worship Him!

Do you know why I worship God?

It is for the same reason that the seraphim do according to Isaiah chapter 6 where they have to cover their faces because of so much glory. And day and night even now as I speak they worship Him, crying Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts.

Do you know why they worship Him?

It is their reaction after standing in the presence of the living God. So when I seek the same God in all earnestness and read that according to Psalm 19 “The heavens declare the glory of God”. And when I read that I was fearfully and wonderfully made as it is stated in Psalm 139 and that I was put in this space and time to know and experience this awesome God, my reaction before all these is to worship Him.

Do you know why I worship God?

It is because I learned a while back that even though I deserve His justice, living in my sins, yet He extended His merciful hand out to me and drew me close to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. When I remember this, my reaction is to fall flat on the pierced feet of Him who died so that I could have life. I worship God because of Who He is and all the things He has done.

Have you worshipped God today?

AMEN!