

What is Worship?

Isaiah Chapter 6 says, “I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high & exalted. And there were angels there, shouting, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory.”

“At the sound of their voices the doorposts were shaken and & the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah said, “Woe is me for I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips, & I live among a people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Do you feel the awestruck wonder that Isaiah felt? He said, “I went into the temple & saw God on His throne and His glory was everywhere.” The Angels expressed their worship saying, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts.”

In John’s vision, Rev 7:11 says, “All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.”

Rev 4:8, says, “And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

Today I would like to speak on a topic that is vital to our relationship with God. It’s a topic that I believe we can sometimes forget the meaning of because we do it so often and that is the topic of worship.

Psalm 95 is an invitation to worship. Verses 6-7 say, “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God & we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.”

I. What does Worship mean?

What do we mean when we say, “We have come to worship the Lord”?

The English word “worship” means to ascribe the highest worth.

The word worship in the O.T. means to bow down in reverence to the glory of God.

In the N.T. the word for worship means to show respect and to praise.

When the Samaritan women asked Jesus, where is the right place to worship? You say Jerusalem, we say the mountain, where are we supposed to go? Jesus said, “A time is coming when all will worship in Spirit and in Truth” (John 4:24).

II. Why do we Worship?

#1. We worship to glorify God:

Psalm 29:2 says, “Give to the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.”

Psm 18:3, "I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised."

Rev 4:11, "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."

#2. We worship to build up our faith.

Worship is what gives us the strength to face the challenges of everyday life.

Hebrews 10:25 says we need to meet so we can encourage each other and "so much the more as you see the day approaching."

#3. We worship by partaking the Lord's Supper:

Acts 20:7 says, "On the first day of the week, the disciples came together to break bread."

Paul writes in 1 Cor 10:16, "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"

#4. We worship by listening to preaching:

1 Cor 1:21 says, "God was pleased through what? The foolishness of preaching to save those who believe."

Romans 10:13-14 says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how can they call on Him who they have not believed? And how can they believe in Him if they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach, unless they are sent?"

#5. We worship by singing:

Heb 13:5, "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."

Ephesians 5:19 says, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns & spiritual songs. Sing & make music in your heart to the Lord." God says, "I like to hear you sing."

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."

Close: We become what we worship.

When a person worships possession's they become materialistic. When a person worships money they become greedy. When a person worships power, they become corrupt. But when a person worships God, they become like Jesus.