

## The Third Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 7, 2021

### “Practising the Spiritual Disciplines ~ Worship”

#### Revelation 5:1-14

Godliness can be defined as both \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ. A conformity that’s both inward and outward—to both the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. Without this purpose, the performance of any spiritual discipline—no matter how consistent or vigorous—is in \_\_\_\_\_.

OT and NT are not only clear that it’s the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of all people to worship their Creator, but also that God clearly expects us to worship. It’s our \_\_\_\_\_!

“This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me.” (Matthew 15:8-9)

“After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne!” (Revelation 4:1)

John’s vision is literally out of this world, as he’s called to “come up here;” to leave the \_\_\_\_\_ bounds of this earthly plain and to peak beyond the veil into the spiritual realm in which the worship of God is \_\_\_\_\_ stage.

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (Revelation 4:8)

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (Rev 4:11)

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and honour and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)

Worship = *wor<sup>th</sup>ship* (Saxon) - To worship God, means to ascribe the proper \_\_\_\_\_ to God; to \_\_\_\_\_ His worthiness of praise; or to approach and address God as He is worthy.

A simple definition: Worship is \_\_\_\_\_ on and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

#### THE REVELATION OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

• \_\_\_\_\_.  
“Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible

though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse...” (Romans 1:20)

• \_\_\_\_\_.  
“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

• \_\_\_\_\_.  
“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Our response to God’s revelation of Himself to us, should be to \_\_\_\_\_ Him by means of Christ, as revealed in the \_\_\_\_\_, trusting in His promise.

“When you seek me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

As we do this, the Holy Spirit opens the eyes of our \_\_\_\_\_ so we can see God as revealed in Scripture and respond with the \_\_\_\_\_ of worship.

The Bible reveals God to us so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ on Him, and to the extent we focus on Him we’ll worship Him. In other words, if there’s little \_\_\_\_\_ of God, there’s little \_\_\_\_\_ on God.

Bible reading and preaching are \_\_\_\_\_ in public worship because they’re the closest, most direct, most extensive \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the gathering.

**One caveat:** Since worship is focussing on and responding to God, regardless of whatever else we’re doing we’re not worshipping if we’re not \_\_\_\_\_ about God. Although worship includes words and actions, it must go beyond them to the focus of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Worship is the God-centred focus and response of the soul; it’s being \_\_\_\_\_ with God, and not \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ENSURING OUR WORSHIP IS NOT IN VAIN

**#1. Our worship is not in vain when it is done in \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

Before we can worship in spirit and truth we need to have the One who is the “Spirit of Truth” \_\_\_\_\_; and the Holy Spirit only \_\_\_\_\_ in those

who have come to Christ in \_\_\_\_\_ and faith.

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

The Spirit is the One who \_\_\_\_\_ God to us, who \_\_\_\_\_ us of our sin against God, and who makes Christ and His saving power \_\_\_\_\_. The Holy Spirit opens \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth of Scripture and awakens hearts that were \_\_\_\_\_ toward God. He causes the souls that were once cold in worship to burn with passion for Christ.

**One caveat:** Having the Holy Spirit residing within us doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ we’ll always worship in spirit and truth, but it does mean we can. To worship God in spirit involves worship from the \_\_\_\_\_.

No matter how spiritual the song we’re singing, no matter how poetic the prayer we’re praying, if it isn’t \_\_\_\_\_, it isn’t worship. It’s \_\_\_\_\_.

The balance to worshipping in spirit is to worship in \_\_\_\_\_. This means worshipping God as He’s revealed in the \_\_\_\_\_ and not as we might want Him be. It also means worshipping God in the ways in which He’s given His \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture

If we worship with too much emphasis on the spirit we’ll be mushy and \_\_\_\_\_ on truth, worshipping mainly based on \_\_\_\_\_. However, if we overemphasize worship in truth and minimize worship in spirit, our worship will be cold, grim, and \_\_\_\_\_, lacking any heart \_\_\_\_\_.

**#2. Our worship is not in vain when it is both \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

The Church isn’t a collection of \_\_\_\_\_; but is rather described in the NT using metaphors like:

To “meet together” undeniably means to gather in the \_\_\_\_\_ presence of other believers. The blessing of a consistent, high quality, personal devotional life doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ us from worshipping with other believers.

To express and experience Christianity solely on the \_\_\_\_\_ level, to the exclusion of the \_\_\_\_\_ dynamic, means we’ll needlessly miss much of

the blessing and power of God.

Jesus’ example shows us that public worship will not \_\_\_\_\_ us from private worship. We \_\_\_\_\_ our joy when we neglect the \_\_\_\_\_ worship of God in private.

What an incredible blessing that God doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ our access to Him and the enjoyment of His presence to only one day a week!

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

**#3. Our worship is not in vain when it is \_\_\_\_\_.**  
True worship displays evidence of \_\_\_\_\_. Worship can’t be \_\_\_\_\_, produced, or \_\_\_\_\_. It’s \_\_\_\_\_: it’s the response of the heart evoked by the beauty, glory, and allure of the object of focus—a holy God.

Without discipline, our worship will be thin and \_\_\_\_\_. Worship is a spiritual discipline insofar as it’s both an \_\_\_\_\_. The worship of God is an end in itself because to worship, as I’ve already said, is to focus on and respond to God. It is also a means, in the sense that it’s a means to \_\_\_\_\_. The more we truly worship God, the more we become like Him. Why? Because people become like their \_\_\_\_\_.

The rigid \_\_\_\_\_ of a routine isn’t the same as rightly \_\_\_\_\_ a spiritual discipline.

Failure to experience the spiritual growth we want when we want it doesn’t disprove the \_\_\_\_\_ of the discipline to make us more Christlike.

If you are \_\_\_\_\_ by the seemingly snail pace of your sanctification, get \_\_\_\_\_ from those who seem to be growing in godliness through public and private worship



This involves far more than just Sunday morning \_\_\_\_\_ at church. It involves all that we are—our entire \_\_\_\_\_.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)