

Application

Even though it may not seem that way at the outset, a study of *the church* is perhaps the most applicational and important study *for the church*.

When it comes to the church's worship, relevance reaches a peak.

With some sincere introspection and meditation, what is the most important thing in your life? (Hint, it is likely that for which you give considerable time, effort, money and attention.)

How does your approach to and your feelings toward this important thing similar to our understanding of what "worship" is?

How would you define "idolatry"?

How would your life be different if the Bible...or God's Church...or God Himself were the most important thing in your life?

What is ONE new way that you could express your response to God as BEST in worship this week?

Some Practical Steps:

We encourage you to continue in the goal of reading your Bible every day.

Worship is NOT just singing. Music and other creative expressions like dance and art are great forms of worship, but you don't have to be an artist or singer to worship. **This week, go for a walk or two.** Be quiet and look around. Connect what you see to what you know of God's Word and let your heart overflow with gratitude. Let gratitude mature into confession, then let confession return again to gratitude as you remember God's grace.

Below are six passages that would be great to read and meditate on each day this week (Monday - Saturday). As you read, ask 3 simple questions:

- ◇ What does this passage teach me about God?
- ◇ What does this passage teach me about me?
- ◇ What does this passage teach me about worship?

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalm 32

Psalm 51

Matthew 23

John 4

Revelation 21-22

Church(ology)

a biblical study of God's design for the body of Christ



February 13, 2011

Why Worship? (part 2)

Isaiah 6:1-8—Revelation 4:1-11



Church(ology)

For Further Study

It bears repeating that without exaggeration, there is perhaps no other subject except God himself, that gets more Biblical square footage in verses, passages and whole books than the subject of worship. It is THE central topic of the Bible.

“The greater our appreciation and apprehension of the majestic God whom we say we worship, the greater will be our reverence, adoration and service.” Allen Ross.

Isaiah 6 is a central and classic OT text on worship. What we see in this short text is almost beyond words. And although worship in the OT has the same object (the triune God) as in the NT, worship was forever changed by Jesus’ incarnation and passion (see **John 4:21-26**). **Isaiah 6** directly correlates to **Revelation 4** in both language and theology.

Isaiah 6 is very likely an account of Isaiah’s commissioning as a prophet. It was a difficult year because the King was dead. However, Isaiah received a miraculous vision of a bigger King, the true King, God himself.

6:2-4—Notice special angels (Seraphim = burning ones) were calling out in worship. Their praise connected God’s holiness to God’s glory. God’s holiness is *“not one of many descriptions of God; it is the summary designation of all that God is and is known to be in contrast to all of creation.”* Allen Ross. See **Psalm 7:9ff; 33:9; 115:3; 139:1ff; 145:17; 147:4-5**; etc.

6:5-8—Notice that this revelation to Isaiah (a special revelation in the form of a dream or vision) moved him to response and action. This is what worship does. Isaiah begins with humility, confession and awesome gratitude (**v.5**: see also **Matt 10:28; Eph 5:21; Heb 12:28; 1 Pt 2:17; Rev 14:7**) which then matures into action (**v.8**).

Revelation 4 is also a miraculous vision given to John the disciple of Jesus (**v.2**). He saw a throne room of worship. The object of this worship was *One* (**v.2**), the only true God. Mentioned worshipers include 24 elders (**v.4, 10**) and four strange creatures representing all of creation (**v.6-8**).

4:8—Notice the similarity between the worship statement here and the worship truth in **Isaiah 6:3**. *Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD...* Notice also that revelation of the LORD God of glory leads to response in both texts (Isaiah repents and volunteers—**v.5,8**) (The 24 elders bow down and cast their crowns at God’s feet—**v.9-11**).

“Thus, in general terms, ‘worship’ refers to the appropriate response to the revelation of the holy God of glory. More specifically, Christian worship, whether individual or collective, is the structured and ordered expression of the proper response of the people of God to the revelation of God in Christ.” Allen Ross (*Recalling the Hope of Glory*)