

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD THROUGH WORSHIP (Rev. 22:8-9)

February 18, 2024

TEXT—Rev. 22:8-9

MAIN IDEA—God is worthy of our worship and works through our worship to draw us to Himself.

1. Worshiping God is FOCUSING ON AND RESPONDING TO GOD (Rev. 4:1-11). Worshiping God is acknowledging God's superior worth and infinite value. The LORD is infinitely worthy of all the glory, honor, praise, reverence, obedience, devotion and love we can give Him. **See Rev. 4:1-11; 5:11-14**

Donald S. Whitney—*Worship is...being preoccupied with God.*

*God has revealed Himself to us through creation and He's worthy to be praised for it [**Ps. 19:1**].

*God has revealed Himself to us through the Scriptures and more specifically through Jesus Christ, the Son of God [**Jn. 1:14, 18**].

*True worship of God inevitably leads to a response of service [**Rom. 12:1; Matt. 4:10**].

2. Worshiping God is to be done IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH (John 4:20-24). Jesus addressed the Samaritan woman at the well offering her "living water" (i.e. eternal life). Yet before she could drink of this living water she had to first be honest about her life (**John 4:15-19**). She brought up the subject of worship to appear religious and Jesus set the record straight defining what true worship is.

*Worship is not about the place you gather in or outward forms (i.e. bowing down). Worship is about the inner life of the one offering praise to God.

Worship "In Spirit" means to approach God with the proper heart attitude (i.e. reverence, faith, praise, love); having a genuine awareness of God in communion with Him, engaging the affections of our hearts, not about location or physical posture. **Matt. 15:7-9**

R.C. Sproul (1939-2017)—Worship that pleases God is not given grudgingly, out of a mere sense of duty to show up at church on Sunday morning, but it is motivated and driven by a soul that delights in the presence of God. Spiritual worship is worship that is offered by a person who takes delight in honoring God, in praying to God, in listening to the Word of God with his mind fully engaged.

Worshipping “In Truth” means to offer Christ centered worship to God according to the truth of Scripture or Biblical Revelation.

Jn. 14:6; Jn. 17:17

Ps. 100:1-5; Lev. 10:1-3; Heb. 10:19-22

3. Worshiping God is expected both publicly and privately (Heb. 10:24-25). Meeting together as members of the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:12**), is expected and encouraged. Through these meetings we are encouraged, strengthened, challenged, cared for, corrected, and blessed by God’s special presence. Our private worship of God empowers our public worship as we focus on God and respond to Him together.

Ps. 34:3; Col. 3:16-17

God also expects us to worship Him privately.

Matt. 6:6

Heb. 4:16; Eph. 5:18-20

***Applications for Private worship:** Set aside time to focus on the Lord in the word, prayer, and praise. Use a good hymn book of worship songs or sheet music, singing them regularly. Go to God in prayer and just delight in who He is with no requests. Practice His presence throughout the day (**Heb. 13:5**).

***Applications for public worship:** Prepare for public worship. Plan out your clothing, eat in advance as needed. Leave as early as possible so that you’re not stressing out to get to church. Spiritually, pray about God being glorified and His will being done through the service, the prayers, the message, the music, the pastors, our families and ourselves. Come expecting to uniquely meet with God in corporate worship!