

Worship: “Christ our *Leitourgos*?”

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Worship

Worship is the constant activity of the Church for eternity. Revelation 7 depicts the beautiful picture of this ongoing worship. However, the reality of heaven becomes more brighter and closer in this world as the body of Christ come together to worship the Lord. Furthermore, the scripture says in fact the primary calling of the church is to worship the Lord. God from all of eternity has called His elect with the deepest longing in their hearts which can't be replaced with anything else except by the greater joy of worship. It is an undeserved privilege for all of us gathered here. As I have mentioned in one of my previous sermons that there is an ongoing worship in heaven and God in his mercy has given us the opportunity to join that heavenly Choir. Therefore, it is fair to say that we were created to praise.

How to Worship

John 4:24 says, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” It's a topic we may need few Sundays to do proper exegesis, however, let me touch the surface of this verse in conjunction with John 5: 23 “that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.” In John 4:24 Jesus says that those who worship must worship him in Spirit and Truth. The Truth is that if anyone who worship the Lord must worship him with the revelation of Who He Is as revealed in the Scripture. In other words, you might say I'm a Christian, but I don't believe that Jesus is God, then according to the scripture that is not an acceptable worship since such worship doesn't have truth as its foundation. Bible says that our God is Triune, hence our worship must be Trinitarian. Also, the scripture implies that **correct theology leads to correct doxology**. And clearly in John 5:23 Jesus says that whoever doesn't honor the Son doesn't honor the Father. So in other words, we cant worship as we please in our way but our worship must be rooted in the scriptural truth which is Christ is the Son of God and we are accepted to the father only through the Son by the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Our worship must be Triune. Every song we sing must abide to this scriptural principle, otherwise it would just well enough to be a good love song not a worship song.

Sometimes I wonder how many times we pray and sing without understanding the theological meanings of what we do. Truth is grounded in the word and not in our emotions or feelings. Now it is impossible to a mortal man to understand this Truth unless Holy Spirit reveals it to them. As we have read and discussed last week that it is Holy Spirit that makes a dead man alive. As Ephesians says, “2we were dead in sin ...” and by the power of the Holy Spirit God raised us from our dead condition and opened our spiritual eyes to see the Truth about God and His Son Jesus.

Through whom do we worship – Christ our *leitourgos*

Let’s read together Hebrews 8:1 – 6.

Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

³Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” ⁶But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

In Hebrews 8:2 and 3 the Greek word used there is *leitourgos* (actual meaning is chief liturgist). What does it mean, Jesus is our great high priest who leads our worship on behalf of us for himself (since Father, Son and Spirit are one). What a marvellous mystery is that. The one who is at the right hand of the Father is here with us right now by His spirit and He (Jesus) is our chief worship leader. So, the true worship leader isn’t to be found on the platform when we gather in church on Sunday morning. The true worship leader is to be found at the right hand of God, because the Lord Jesus is our worship leader. We supposed to join Him and sing it along with Jesus as He leads us in His song with confidence in our Jesus, our *leitourgos* and Great High Priest.

He Himself is the 'God of my righteousness', for He is the One 'who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption' (1 Cor. 1:30). He is the "One who 'knew no sin' yet became 'sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him' (2 Cor. 5:21). It is 'through faith in Christ' that we receive 'the righteousness which is from God by faith' (Phil. 3:9), so He is the One to whom we can cry out for mercy. there is only one man who is truly and perfectly godly: the God-Man, Christ Jesus. It is because Jesus has been set apart – because Jesus 'was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin' (Heb. 4:15) and set Himself apart (sanctified Himself – Jn 17:19) in dying for our sins on the cross – that we have confidence that 'the Lord will hear when I call unto Him' (Ps 4:3)" (Torrance). It is only because Jesus, the Godly One, has been set apart in His sinless life, atoning death, and triumphant resurrection, that we can 'stand in awe and sin not' (v.4). As we look to Jesus and how He has been set apart for us, as we look to Jesus and see in Him the truth and glory of God, as we look to Jesus and see Him as the Lord our Righteousness, the reality of His glorious person causes us to 'stand in awe', to 'tremble' with the true fear of the Lord in wonder and delight at who He is and what He has done for us.

Nothing in this world can snatch away the joy and comfort we have in Christ Jesus. By keeping our trust in him we can surely know that our unworthiness and weakness becomes perfected through his intercession and In Him and through Him we offer acceptable worship to the Father.