



Worship: the Transforming Priority

Psalm 95:1-2 (pew Bible p.553)

- I. If you asked most churches what the most important thing they were called to do, many would answer evangelism, or perhaps discipleship. Hard to disagree with that! But we will today. The priority of the church is worship! But what exactly is worship?
- II. A great quote by Archbishop Temple says:
To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God; to feed the mind with the truth of God; to purge the imagination with the beauty of God; to open the heart to the love of God; to devote the will to the purpose of God.
- III. **Worship is Our Response to the Character of God:**
- IV. **Worship is Our Response to His work in Creation:**
- V. **Worship is Our Response to His mercy in Redemption:**
 - A. This calls for "whole-life" worship which
 - ❖ connects the spiritual to the physical in our lives.
 - ❖ connects Sunday to the rest of the week.
 - ❖ connects us as individuals to the people of God.
- VI. **In worship, we celebrate God's work in our lives.**
- VII. **Worship also anticipates what is to come!**
 - A. This is one thing we learn about worship in the Book of Revelation.



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- I. **Getting Started**
 1. What is the first thing that comes into your mind at the word "worship"?
 2. What in today's message broadened your understanding of what worship is?
- II. **Digging Deeper**
 3. What aspect of God's character have you been thinking about this week? What response in worship would that stir in you?
 4. Read Psalm 95. In Anglican worship, this psalm is called The Venite, which means "Come". It is a psalm that teaches us how to come before God. Grasp the different movements in this psalm about how to come before God. What does each say to you?
 5. Where has worship been joyful in your life recently?
 6. In what circumstances have you found it hard to worship? Were you able to worship God in spite of your own feelings?
 7. Reflect on what Pastor Tom calls "whole life" worship. How did that speak to you? Did it help you in some way to make some vital re-connections? If so, what were they?
- III. **Applying God's Truth**
 8. The challenge is to see how and where we worship God when we step outside the church and what we call "the worship service" is over!

This week, can you find a new way each day to thank God for:
 - ❖ His work in creation. Read a psalm.
 - ❖ Your salvation.
 - ❖ For family and friends.
 - ❖ What He is doing in your life this week.
 - ❖ What is still to come.