

Subject: *Worship that Honors God*

Scripture: *Psalms 100:1-5*

The worship service went on for a very long time and a little boy whispered to his mother, “Will the preacher stop preaching if we pay him now?” Some people are like that boy wondering, “When will worship ever stop.” But the important question is, “When does real worship ever begin?” A. W. Tozer said that worship is “the missing jewel of the church.”

The Bible often confirms the absolute priority of worship. One such passage is found in Hebrews 11 when it tells us about the OT heroes of faith. The first man is Abel who was known for his worship. That is really all we know about his life. The second person in the list is Enoch who was known for his walk with God. That is what he is remembered for. The third person mentioned in Hebrews 11 is Noah who was known for his work. He spent 120 years building the ark. Hebrews 11 has an order that is not only chronological, but also an order of priorities. First there is worship, then walk, and then work.

The priority of worship was the same when God told Israel how to lay out the camp. At the center of the camp was the tabernacle, then those closest to the tabernacle were the priests who led the people in worship, then beyond them were the Levites who served the Lord. The order reminded Israel that worship was the main priority and service was secondary.

It’s one thing to have a worship service, but do we really have worship that honors God?

1. Worship must have an attitude of joy (vs. 1-2)

These verses speak of singing with joy and serving with gladness. That is worship that honors God. We are to come before his presence with singing.

Psalms 95:1-2¹ O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.² Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Think about the cherubim and seraphim praising God in heaven. They have been praising God since the day they were created. Imagine if some of them got tired of praising God and one day they rolled their eyes and said, “Please not again, I’m tired of praising God.” What would you think?

Serve the Lord with gladness. Worship without an attitude of joy is not worship at all. Worship is based on God’s worth or worthiness. Worship is a blessing and a privilege, so we must worship with joy.

2. Worship must have an awareness of God (vs. 3)

The key word in verse 3 is “know.” Worship that honors God comes from people who know God. All true worship is based on our knowledge of God. Three things stand out in the verse.

A. He is the one true God

The special name “Yahweh” is used in this psalm. This is the name God revealed to Moses.

Exodus 3:13-14 ¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

B. He is our creator

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. God made us for His own pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...

C. He is our sustainer

We are God's people and we are His sheep. He takes care of us and protects us. In Him we live and move and have our being. This verse reminds us of **Psalms 23**.

3. Worship must have an appreciation for God (vs. 4-5)

We come into God's presence with thanksgiving and praise. We are thankful to Him and we bless His name. God's name represents all He is, all of His attributes. Three attributes are mentioned in verse 5 (His goodness, mercy, and truth), but there are so many more (His eternity, supremacy, sovereignty, infinity, immutability, holiness, righteousness, love, all-power, all-presence, all-wisdom, and patience).

Our circumstances change, but He never changes. No matter what happens to us, we still worship Him and appreciate all He is.

Job 1:20-21 ²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, ²¹ And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Psalms 73 is a psalm of Asaph. He was a Levite who was also a choir director and worship leader (1 Chr. 16:4-5; 25:1-2). He is identified with Psalms 73-83 and also Psalm 50. Asaph lived during the reigns of David and Solomon. In Psalm 73 Asaph describes the situation of losing his perspective on life. He envied people who didn't know God and yet seemed to prosper. He was at the point of despair, but eventually he realized that he was under God's sovereign care and blessing. He took the long look at his life. Look at the turning point and his conclusion (Ps. 73:17, 24-26).

The Bible says that worship is to come first, and that true worship honors God. We must have an attitude of joy, an awareness of God, and an appreciation of God. That is the kind of worship that truly honors God.

The way we worship is an indicator of the condition of our heart. If we don't enjoy worship now, what makes us think we will enjoy worship in Heaven for ever? If we enjoy worship now it indicates that our heart has truly been changed.

Let's read Psalm 100 again, this time let's read it together. Does that describe your worship?