

He Is Worthy!

The Worshipping Church Part 8

Revelation 5:1-14 2-21-2012

Summary: The reason we worship is that God is worthy. Even if He gave us nothing good, still it would be fitting for us to worship because He possesses every kind of worthiness. The Father is worthy because of creation and Jesus is worthy because He takes the scroll (the Father's final plan for final judgment, the elimination of evil, and the reversal of the curse). Only Jesus could do that, because it required redemption, so that all of humanity was not destroyed in the judgment. Therefore Jesus is worthy to receive (credit) for all power, wealthy, wisdom, and strength because they all come from Him.

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Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Introduction

Has anybody in the room suffered any hard providence recently? A financial setback, a problem in your marriage, an illness, a loss, or some other kind of suffering? Well then, why are you here? If God allowed that, and He dealt you or is dealing you a painful hand, why would you come here to worship Him? Most of the atheists I have run into used to be theists, but then something hard happened to them and they decided there is no way God can exist. Or they got angry with God and turned away. But you – God gives you suffering and you get up out of bed on Sunday morning to come worship Him. Why? What is the explanation for people like Job? God takes away everything in a single day. ALL his children die. Losing one child would be horrible enough, but to lose them all in a single day. And he lost all his money – nothing left. And then he lost his health and was suffering with agonizing sores. And he immediately responded by worshipping God.

Job 1:21 The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Why, Job? Why bless His name after all that?

The Reason We Worship: God is Worthy

In this series on corporate praise we have talked about the *basis* for our worship, which is the glory of God. We see His glory and respond with worship. We have talked about *content* of our worship – words and actions that are expressions of delight in the attributes and actions of God. We have discussed the *tools* of worship – singing, prayers, kneeling, bowing, clapping, standing, lifting our hands, musical instruments. We have discussed the *goal* of worship – to bring honor, glory, praise, and thanks to God. That is the outcome we are looking for. But one thing we have not covered yet is the *reason* for worship. Why do we worship? The answer is in the last verse of Revelation 4.

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power

And then again in chapter 5.

Revelation 5:12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

The reason for worship is very simple: we worship God because He is worthy. There are some benefits that come to us when we worship, but that is not why we do it. Even if there were no benefit at all, still we would worship simply because He deserves it. There is an old chorus that says, “My flesh is tired of seeking God, but on my knees I’ll stay.” Why? If you are tired of it, why not just call it quits? If I am not getting anything out of it anyway, why bother? Answer: because He is worthy.

He is Every Kind of Worthy

If you look up all the various times the word “worthy” is used in the Bible you will see that there are a number of different kinds of worthiness. And you can tell by the context which kind is being referred to. In some cases the word *worthy* means “fitting” or “appropriate” (Mt.3:8 – Produce fruit worthy of repentance). Other times it means “qualified” (Mt.22:8 - The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited are not worthy). Other times it means “deserving,” or speaks of that which was earned (Lk.10:7 – A worker is worthy of his wages). And still other times it points to obligation – if someone is worthy of something that means someone else is obligated to provide it (1 Tim.6:1 – Slaves must consider their masters worthy of full honor). The slave is obligated to give him that honor.

Those are the various facets of the concept of worthiness. And it does not take much to realize that all of those facets apply to the worthiness of the Lord Jesus Christ to be worshipped. If you say, “Which kind of worthiness is this here?” – it is every kind. He is every kind of worthy. It is fitting to

worship Him. It is appropriate to worship Him. He is fully qualified to be the object of worship. He deserves it. He has earned it. And as His creatures we are obligated to give it to Him. Worship and praise and allegiance belong to Him. He has it coming. And so to fail to give it to Him is like stealing. Any time or energy that should be spent in worship that is not is really embezzlement. His praises belong to Him, and we are not at liberty to withhold them. That is one of the things every human being is going to have to answer for on Judgment Day.

“Did you give My Son the glory and honor and praise and worship that He is due?”

And if the answer is no, they will find out – that was not optional.

Failure to worship Jesus Christ is the worst kind of negligence there is. It is more serious than failing to pay your taxes. It is worse than neglecting your children so that they starve to death. There is no obligation anywhere in any context that is more serious than our obligation to give honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. Of all the debts we owe, that is the first and greatest. It is the most important and it is the most urgent.

You should worship God even if you do not feel like it, just because He is worthy. You should worship God even if He gives you a miserable life of nothing but endless, excruciating pain and suffering, because He is worthy of worship no matter what. You should worship God even if you are tired and weak and do not feel good, because He is worthy. You should worship God even if you do not love Him and do not know Him and do not even believe He exists, because He is worthy. Our beliefs about Him are not what make Him worthy – His worthiness is independent of us.

What Makes Him Worthy

The Creation

So the reason for worship? The worthiness of God. In chapter 4 we see the worthiness of the Father because of His work in creation.

4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

The Scroll

In chapter 5 the worthiness of Jesus Christ is based on something else.

5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

What is this scroll? The answer is in the chapters that follow. As each of these seals is opened, the events of the book of Revelation take place.¹ By the time that scroll is opened – all seven seals, which include all the resulting trumpets and bowls – by the time all that is finished, all unbelievers are thrown into the lake of fire, Satan and all his demons are sealed away forever in the bottomless pit, the whole creation is renewed – a new heaven and a new earth, and...

Revelation 21:4 There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain

The opening of this scroll brings about the final elimination of evil, and the ushering in of the glorious eternal state. So the scroll is God's eternal plan for the consummation of history. When sin entered human history at the Fall in Genesis 3, that was the beginning of death, disease, decay, suffering, sickness, sorrow, and everything that is wrong with this world. So throughout human history

¹ Jay Adams suggests that nothing actually happens at the opening of the seals. Each seal only reveals the characters who will come into play later in the book. But even if that is the case, it is still the opening of the seals that sets in motion the rest of the book.

the creation groans under the curse.

Romans 8:20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Everything that makes you sad, everything that is wrong in your life, everything that causes you pain – it is all connected to this curse. And all of humanity is locked in this cursed futility without remedy. It is like we are trapped in a maze. And after thousands of years of wandering in the maze, finally, we come to the end – and to the horror of everyone, the door is locked. The door out of the maze of all this futility and corruption and suffering and death is locked, and we are all trapped inside. And the scroll is the key to open that door and free the creation from the curse and bring about the glorious purposes of God. So in verse 1 all of humanity stands at that locked door. And finally someone speaks up.

2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

In other words, "Who has the key to this door to let us out of this maze?" And He shouts that to the entire creation, and the response is nothing but devastating silence.

3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

Not only can we not bring about God's final purposes, we cannot even find out what they are.

4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

That is not John being overly emotional. His weeping represents the tears of every one of us as we suffer the sorrows of the curse. Broken relationships, lousy marriages, physical illness, injuries, the pain of old age, not enough money, too much work to do, funerals, losses, fights, arguments, rip-offs, injustices, loneliness, aggravation – everything that makes your life hard. That is the curse of this maze, and the only way out is through this door, and the door is locked. So the angel shouts to everyone in the universe to ask if anyone has the key, and there is a sickening silence, and so all of us join with John as he weeps and weeps at this locked door (the sealed up scroll).

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

The Lion of Judah has the key! He can unlock the door and let us out of this maze! He can bring about the consummation of the ages and usher in the final, ultimate, glorious purposes of God by judging sin and eliminating all evil and sorrow and sickness and disease and decay and sin and death. That is great news for John. So John turns around to take a look at this Lion of Judah.

6 Then I saw a Lamb

He turns around to see the Lion, but what he sees is a Lamb. Jesus is described as the Lion of Judah to show His awesome, fierce, overwhelming power and kingly domination. But when He appears, He appears as a lamb. Why appear that way? That makes sense in His first coming, or at the Passover or something, but why here – in a context of sovereign power and final judgment?

There was an old decorated war hero from World War I who was going to attend a special award ceremony in his honor. He did not wear a tuxedo or suit. He wore his old uniform with the medals displayed on it. He appeared dressed in the garb that he had on when he achieved the victories back in World War I. Why does Jesus appear here as a lamb? He is wearing His old World War I uniform – the garb He wore when He literally won the world. When He won that victory – the key to the door – the right to unseal this scroll, the way out of the maze – He was a sacrificial lamb. So that is how He appears when He takes the scroll.

6 Then I saw a Lamb looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns

Horns symbolize power. The number seven represents perfection. He is a lamb with infinite, perfect power.

...and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

That is the Holy Spirit. And at this point the Lion/Lamb does what no other being in all the creation can do.

7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

And when he takes that scroll, all heaven breaks loose. His taking that scroll launches the greatest scene of worship there has ever been or ever will be. So that by the time you get to verse 13 not even heaven itself can contain the worship. It begins with the twenty-four elders in verse 8, and by verse 13 it spreads to every creature in existence. And they are all singing about the death of the lamb, and what He accomplished in that death.

Redemption

9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

When Jesus died on the cross He was paying our penalty – the penalty for our sin; however that is not all He was doing. He was also making a purchase. He literally purchased us. Your Bible might say, “ransomed” or “redeemed.” The concept of purchasing or redeeming people is foreign in our culture, but it was extremely familiar in that culture. Sixty percent of the people in Rome at that time were slaves, so they were very familiar with this language. People got into debt, could not pay their bills – back then they did not have Chapter 11 (you could not just declare bankruptcy). So their only option was to sell themselves into slavery to the person they owed.

And when you did that, if some rich relative wanted to buy your freedom, he would pay what you owed. But he would not pay it directly to the slave owner. He would pay it to the local pagan temple (plus an extra fee for the priests). The priests would then give the money to the slave owner, so that now the god of that temple owns you. So the priests got their cut, the original creditor got his money back, you got your freedom, the pagan god was honored, and everyone was happy.

That was everyday life for the people in Roman culture at that time. So when John says Jesus purchased or redeemed men for God from every tribe and tongue and nation and people, it was crystal clear to the original readers what that meant. Every one of us has sold ourselves into slavery to sin, and we are powerless to redeem ourselves. And so Jesus bought us for God.

If God the Son does not do that, and the Father just opens the seals Himself so that judgment comes, then everybody dies. Every single person ever born is sent to eternal hell, and there are no human voices to sing God’s praises. And that is not the most glorious of all possible outcomes, so God does not do it that way.

When He died on the cross as a sacrificial lamb He was taking the punishment of our sins in our place, and at the same time He was offering His life as a payment for our debt to redeem us from our slavery to sin so that we now belong to God as His slaves.

Consummation

And not just slaves...

10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

You see, the scroll was God's plan to wipe out evil altogether, and to be praised forever by a grateful, redeemed humanity who rule alongside His Son. And that is why no one in the creation could open the scroll. How do you wipe out evil and still have human beings left over when all human beings are sinful? If anyone but Jesus opens that scroll, and the judgments start coming, and God eliminates all evil, then at the end there are no people left to praise God. So Jesus comes as the sacrificial lamb, purchases a redeemed race of priests and co-rulers, and makes it possible for the scroll to be unraveled, and for God's final judgment to come on the world, but without wiping out all humanity in the process, so that the final Judgment would display both God's justice and holiness on the one hand, and His mercy and kindness on the other, and throughout eternity there can be universe-wide shouts of praise from redeemed men and women.

Universal Praise

And this is where all heaven breaks loose.

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and tens of thousands (plural) times tens of thousands.

Thousands of thousands is millions. And tens of thousands times tens of thousands is hundreds of millions. But the Greek word for ten thousand (*murios*) is the largest number in the Greek language. (We get our word "myriad" from it.) So if the number was much greater than ten thousand, they would still use this word. So if it is literal, it means millions and hundreds of millions, and if it is symbolic then it is some number that is much greater than that.

They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

And now here is where the praise explodes universe-wide so that not even heaven itself can contain the praise.

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

So in addition to the innumerable angels, all of humanity joins in.

13 ...every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them

Nowhere in the Bible will you find a more comprehensive description. When the Bible says, "Everything in heaven and on earth" – just that phrase already includes absolutely everything. But this – every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them – you just cannot get any more comprehensive than that. This is the fulfillment of Philippians 2:10-11. This is the moment when every knee bows, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God. And I honestly do not know when that happens exactly. I do not know if this jumps ahead to after all unbelievers and demons and Satan are sealed away forever in the bottomless pit, or if it is at the Second Coming and even the wicked are joining in with this. I think either one is possible. It would not surprise me if at the Second Coming, unbelievers, atheists, demons – the devil himself - those who love Him and those who hate Him - every knee buckles. Some willingly and gladly, others just from being overwhelmed by His awesome glory.

I think that is possible. But I have to say I lean a little more toward the other possibility – that this looks forward to the time when all evil is done away with. I say that because the praises of verse 13 sound to me like willing, enthusiastic, exuberant, joyful, heartfelt praise.

Not 70 AD

But whenever it happens, one thing is very clear – it is universal. That is one of the problems I have with what is known as the preterist interpretation of the book of Revelation. Preterist means taking a prophecy that is commonly considered an end-times prophecy, and interpreting it as something that has already been fulfilled in the past. In this case, the judgments throughout the book of Revelation are taken to be prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by Rome.

There are a number of problems with that. According to the preterists, the scroll and the seals would be all about 70 AD. When it was first revealed that Jesus had the authority to bring about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, did that cause every creature in existence to erupt with universal praise? And was the result of that massacre in Jerusalem the elimination of evil and death and sorrow and suffering and tears and pain forever? It seems to me you have to do some major gymnastics with interpreting the text to try to say that death and weeping and mourning and crying and pain have been eliminated in the Church as a result of 70 AD and that every creature in existence erupted with praise when it took place.²

I believe 70 AD was a near fulfillment. Sometimes God does that with prophecies. He gives a smaller, miniature fulfillment that is close to the language of the prophecy, but that serves only as a picture of the ultimate fulfillment. But the language is just far too expansive to say that all of it was completely fulfilled in 70 AD.

This is the culmination of all things. And it is the basis for all worship. It is fitting that the creation should worship its Creator. It is unfitting, and scandalous and outrageous, that the creation should withhold worship from its Creator. And it is infinitely more scandalous that the redeemed should withhold worship from their Redeemer. So the worthiness of God as our Creator in chapter 4 and our Redeemer in chapter 5 double our already infinite reasons to worship Him. And so worship Him we will, along with every voice in the universe.

What He is Worthy to Receive

And we will do it because based on creation and redemption, He is worthy. He is worthy to be praised, worthy to be honored, worthy to be loved and adored, worthy to be glorified and magnified, He is worthy of our trust, He is worthy of our hope, He is worthy of our desire, He is worthy of our loyalty, worthy to be feared, to be obeyed, to be served, to be sought, worthy to be followed, to be rejoiced in, to be boasted in, He is worthy of exaltation, worthy of thanksgiving, worthy to be called upon, prayed to, waited for, acknowledged, and remembered, worthy to be loved with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, all our strength. The Lord Jesus Christ is worthy of everything good.

But for our purposes this morning, let's just look at the seven things mentioned specifically in this text.

12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

The last three in that list are easy to understand – we give God **honor and glory and praise**. We have talked about that in previous weeks. But what about the first four?

The Meaning of "Receive"

How do we give God **power, wealth, wisdom, and strength**? Obviously it is not saying we supply God with those things. He already has infinite power and wealth and wisdom and strength. So

² This is a common problem for the preterist view. For example, the army that comes in the sixth Trumpet has 200 million mounted soldiers (Rev.9:16). The Roman army that destroyed Jerusalem was seventy thousand. It is hard to imagine why the Holy Spirit would use the number 200 million to describe an army of seventy thousand (hardly an innumerable army, since Israel's army was close to that size – sixty thousand).

in the context of worship, giving those things to God means giving Him credit for them. This is the poetic language of praise. It is the language of Psalm 96.

Psalms 96:6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. 7 Give to the Lord, O families of nations, give to the Lord glory and strength. 8 Give to the Lord the glory due his name ... 10 Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

Giving God His attributes means giving Him credit for them. And you do that by, recognizing them, appreciating them, drawing attention to them, delighting in them, proclaiming the truth about them, and showcasing them to yourself and others.

Power

He is worthy that we do all that, first with His power. We worship by recognizing, appreciating, delighting in, drawing attention to, proclaiming, and showcasing the fact that Jesus Christ possesses infinite power. The power of gravity comes from Him. The power of electromagnetism is supplied by Him.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

All the unimaginable forces spinning the galaxies and powering the massive stars and supernovas and black holes – they all come from the Lord Jesus Christ every second of every day. If He went to sleep for one moment, the sun would go out. The universe would cease to exist.

We glory in the greatness of our King.

1 John 3:19 This is ... how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts

He is greater than our sin, greater than our enemy, greater than death, greater than the Fall, greater than the creation, greater than all the demons and the devil and all the false gods all put together. Our King in heaven is not threatened by anything or anyone. His plan cannot be thwarted, it cannot be derailed, it cannot be altered, it is certain, it is unchangeable, it is unassailable.

Wealth

He is worthy to receive the credit for all power, and also – He is worthy to receive the credit for all wealth. Everything that has value (any kind of value – monetary value, sentimental value, relational value) - all if it came from Him and rightly belongs to Him.

All value springs from Him. Think of the meaning of the word “wealth.” If you are rich, that means you have a whole lot of the things people desire. And the reason people desire those things is because Jesus Christ made them good. He made them beautiful to the human eye, or useful, or tasty, or in some way pleasing and satisfying to the human soul. That is why a 16 ounce prime rib at Village Tavern costs \$26, it is why a really nice car is worth tens of thousands, it is why houses are worth hundreds of thousands. People will pay that much money for them because they have delightful, desirable, useful properties that come from the Lord Jesus Christ. All value comes from Him, and therefore all value belongs to Him.

Bill Gates does not know it, but every dime of his money is on loan from God. The Lord Jesus Christ owns the cattle on one thousand hills, and He needs nothing. Every car on the highway, every house, every item in every store – everything belongs to the Lion/Lamb. He created it, all of it, for His pleasure and it is all His. The mountain peaks belong to Him, the sea is His, for He made it. The tongue that the atheist uses to ridicule God belongs to God. The nails they used to crucify Jesus were on loan from Jesus. They beat Him with whips and strength borrowed from Him. Everything belongs to Him.

He will never run out of resources, there will be no taxes in heaven, all His eternal programs are all already fully funded, and being near Him in eternity will be an experience of being constantly showered by overflowing, never-ending abundance springing forth from Him like an eternal geyser.

All treasures of every kind belong to Him – and not just because He created them and gave them whatever goodness they have, but also because He is worthy to receive them. If we honor people by giving them things of value, Jesus is worthy to receive all things of value. He deserves everything good.

Wisdom

And He possesses not only all power and all riches but also all wisdom. God knows everything about everything - Everything that has ever happened, everything that is happening now, everything that ever will happen, everything that could happen, and everything that could not happen. He knows everything that would happen if all the things that don't happen did happen to happen. He knows your thoughts from afar. He knows your getting up and your lying down. He knows the thoughts and intentions of your heart. If you have a mixed motive, He could tell you the exact percentage of each. He knows how many stars there are in the universe, and He calls them each by name.

Strength

He is worthy to receive the glory and honor and praise for all power that exists, and all wealth that exists, and all wisdom, and one more – all strength. Not just the power to do everything, but the actual use of that power. And the thing about the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ is that it is a glorious strength.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his strength

There are powers that are not glorious. They are awesome in power, but they do not do good things. A nuclear explosion in the center of Denver would be an awesome power, but not a glorious power. But the Lord Jesus Christ – with His great power and mighty strength He has done great things – beautiful things, wonderful, amazing, delightful things. He has used His power to triumph over evil.

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

He is worthy to be the one to bring about the consummation of all history, and the judgments of God on the wicked and the elimination of evil and the glorification of the saints because He **has triumphed**.

ΝΙΚΑΩ (*nikao*) – to prevail, conquer, vanquish, overcome, triumph. He reigns over all because He has triumphed over all. He has defeated every enemy. The Lion/Lamb has defeated death, defeated sin, defeated darkness, defeated demons, defeated the grave, He has triumphed! He has triumphed over evil, triumphed over sickness, triumphed over disease and death, triumphed over the world, triumphed over unbelief, He has conquered and vanquished Satan and overcome hell itself. He has overturned the curse, and He reigns over all!

Because of what He accomplished on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ is the One and the only One who is qualified to approach the Ancient of Days, take the scroll from His hand, break open all the seals, and execute all that God the Father has written from eternity past and bring about the final purpose and conclusion of human history and the ultimate, eternal glorification of Almighty God. And so we lift up our voices and join the heavenly anthem and sing...Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise because He reigns over all.

Benediction: Psalms 96:3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. 4 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise ... 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. 7 Give to the Lord ... glory and strength. 8 Give to the Lord the glory due his name

Application Questions:

- 1) Does your concept of God's worthiness to be worshipped depend on how much blessing or hardship you receive (so that when hard providence comes, you feel God is less worthy to be worshipped)? What could you do to improve your understanding of God's worthiness?
- 2) Of the first four in the list of seven things the Lamb is worthy to receive (power, wisdom, wealth, and strength), which is easiest for you to see as having come from the Lord Jesus Christ? Which is hardest?
- 3) Of all the things the Lord is worthy to receive, which do you tend to neglect the most? And why do you think that is?
 - He is worthy to be praised...
 - worthy to be honored
 - worthy to be loved and adored
 - worthy to be glorified and magnified
 - He is worthy of our trust
 - He is worthy of our hope
 - He is worthy of our desire
 - He is worthy of our loyalty
 - worthy to be feared
 - to be obeyed
 - to be served
 - to be sought
 - worthy to be followed
 - to be rejoiced in
 - to be boasted in
 - He is worthy of exaltation
 - worthy of thanksgiving
 - worthy to be called upon, prayed to, waited for, acknowledged and remembered
 - worthy to be loved with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, all our strength.