

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

September 27, 2015

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

God is All Wise

Psalm 104:24-26: "O Lord, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all; the earth is full of Thy possessions. There is the sea, great and broad, in which are swarms without number, animals both small and great. There the ships move along, *and* Leviathan, which Thou hast formed to sport in it."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross**

Ps. 7:17

+We Adore Him

Hymn #531, "Savior, Blessed Savior"

We Confess Our Sin

Holy Father! We feel our weakness, our ignorance, and our deep corruptions. We meekly knock at mercy's gate. Regard us in tender love for Jesus' sake. Bend down Your ear and grant Your smile.

We are blind; be our light. We are ignorant; be our wisdom. We are steeped in selfishness; pluck all self out of us. In the deep sense of our guilt, we fly for refuge into the wounded side of Jesus! Be merciful unto us whose only hope is in Your unfailing mercy.

Our sins rise higher than the heavens, but Your merits in our behalf surpass the very heaven of heavens! Our unrighteousness would weigh us down to hell, but Your glorious righteousness exalts us to Your heavenly throne! All things in us call for our damnation, but all things in You demand our forgiveness.

We appeal, then, from Your throne of perfect justice, to Your throne of boundless grace! Blessed Jesus, we hide ourselves in the sure covert, of Your wrath-appeasing wounds! Grant us to hear Your voice assuring us: that by Your stripes we are healed; that You have been bruised for our iniquities; that You have been made sin for us, that we

might have Your divine righteousness; and that all our vile and grievous iniquities, are forgiven and buried in the ocean of Your sin-concealing blood!

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #311, "Hail To The Lord's Anointed"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication**

Deut. 7:9, 11

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #573, "Am I A Soldier Of The Cross"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Jn. 14:25-27

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #298, "The Head That Once Was Crowned"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

**The Activities of Heaven, Pt. 2**  
Select  
*Study Hour Notes for September 27, 2015*

**G. The Activities of Heaven, Select.**

1. Worshipping, Rev. 7:9-12.
2. Reigning, Rev. 5:9-10; 22:5.
3. Resting, Heb. 4:8-11.
  
4. Fellowshiping, 1 Jn. 1:3; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 21:3-7.

- A. The Priority of Heaven, Mt. 6:9-13.
- B. The Value of Heaven, Lk. 10:17-20.
- C. A Portrait of Heaven, Select.
- D. The Preface to Heaven, Select.
- E. The Glory of Heaven, Select.
- F. The Deficiencies of Heaven, Rev. 21:22-22:5.

**1 John 1:3**

What exactly is conveyed in Scripture when our salvation in Christ is described as fellowshiping with God? The word for “fellowship” in the Greek is *κοινωνία (koinōnia)*. Its primary meaning is that of communion. In a general sense, fellowship is a term used to denote a relationship of communion, togetherness, partnership, or commonness...

In light of this, what is Biblical Fellowship? What does the fellowship that is enjoyed by those who are members of the Kingdom of God have “in common”? Christ! The fellowship we enjoy with God- the fellowship into which we enter upon salvation- is based upon Christ. And so the fellowship we have with one another is based on the enjoying of Christ together (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-16a; Phil. 1:3-5)...

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

As Paul closes this epistle to the Corinthians, he ends with this benediction in which God’s grace, love, and fellowship are “wished” upon the believers at Corinth. See, Paul longed for these Christians to know more of God’s love, understand more of Christ’s grace, and participate more fully in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit...

**Revelation 21:3-4, 6-7**

This passage speaks of the incredible fellowship we someday will enjoy with God! That heaven is the time when God physically will dwell with His people speaks of an intimacy and closeness regarding our relationship with Him, communion, rich and abiding fellowship- as of a father to his son...

...in fact, think of it! What is THE main thing that compromises our fellowship with the Lord in this life? Sin! Right? Cf. Ps. 51:12a; Ps. 32:3-5...

**\*Point:** Heaven is a place where we shall relate to God face to face as nothing less than sons/daughters and so love Him with a love untainted by sin!

**\*Where We Live**

Henry Alford put it, “What rush of hallelujahs fills all the earth and sky! What ringing of a thousand harps bespeaks the triumph nigh! O day, for which creation and all its tribes were made; O joy, for all its former woes a thousand fold repaid! ¶ O then what raptured greetings on Canaan’s happy shore; what knitting severed friendships up where partings are no more! Then eyes with joy shall sparkle, that brimmed with tears of late; orphans no longer fatherless, nor widows desolate.” (*Blue Trinity Hymnal* #234)

## 5. Learning, Jn. 17:3.

### \*Note

1. Before we look at this passage, let me set it up. The first time a person discovers that God has ordained all things- that all that occurs in our lives is according to the counsel of His will- the question naturally arises: If God is in control of all things- and note that we are NOT saying here that God is responsible for all things- then why the fall? Why non-Christians? Why didn't God just disallow the fall, sin, etc?
2. Of the multiple responses we might give, let me give you one. If there had never been the fall, a forgiven sin, a curse from which to be rescued, then almost every attribute of God that we know of today would be unknowable to us (cf. Eph. 3:8, 10)...
3. In light of this truth, what do you suppose is the design behind salvation? What will we spend the rest of eternity doing? Learning more about Christ, God, and His glory! With that, notice the text...

### John 17:3

Jesus describes salvation as an activity of “knowing” Christ and God. To appreciate this statement, we need to understand what is meant by “knowing” in the Bible. In the NT, there primarily are two words translated as “know”- and you probably could quote them...

-οἶδα (*oida*): which refers to a fullness of knowledge. If I say “I know something” and I use this word, that means I know pretty much everything there is to know about it (cf. Rom. 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:12)...

-γινώσκω (*ginōskō*): which refers to a growing, relational knowledge (cf. Gen. 4:17; Amos 3:2; Mt. 7:23)...

...the word used here is γινώσκω (*ginōskō*) from which we conclude that eternal life/salvation is nothing less than a love-relationship with Christ that is ever constant and increasing. And more in keeping with the point here, it is a growing in one's comprehension, understanding, and knowledge of Christ.

That is the purpose of our time here on the earth, and that is the activity with which we shall be consumed in Glory...

As Thomas Boston put it, speaking of the child of God in glory, “Yet the saints can never have an adequate conception of God: they cannot comprehend that which is infinite. They may touch the mountain, but cannot grasp it in their arms... the divine perfections will be an unbounded field, in which the glorified shall walk eternally, seeing more and more of God; since they can never come to the end of that which is infinite.” (*Human Nature in its Fourfold State*. p. 456)

\*Note: Learning in Heaven???

“Perfect” defined- Heb. 5:8; Lk. 2:52

**\*Point:** Heaven will be spent growing evermore in our knowledge of Christ! In fact, think of it: if we could know Christ completely, then He could not be an infinite God.

### \*Where We Live

1. If it isn't rather obvious, each of these activities are but the various expressions of one another...
  - a. Heaven will be spent WORSHIPPING God- and yet as we have seen, true worship flows from a right apprehension of God which therefore presupposes LEARNING.
  - b. And so, Heaven also will be a place of LEARNING. And yet, learning involves not only a growing in one's relationship with God- FELLOWSHIP- but also inquiry or investigation... CO-REIGNING.
  - c. And yet, all of these activities would be impossible without first being freed from the fear and curse of the Law- which implies RESTING.
2. So how will we spend the rest of eternity?