



“Worship God!”

Revelation 22:9

An old man now, John had been banished to the Isle of Patmos for the testimony of the Gospel. He knew his life was coming to an end soon, and truth be known, he was longing to go to his heavenly home. Daily, in his solitude, he spent many hours speaking, listening to, and worshipping his beloved Jesus.

One day, during a personal time of prayerful solitude, Jesus appeared to John in all His glory! John was there when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain. This time Jesus appeared as the King of Kings. John was overcome by a torrent of emotions and he fell at Jesus’ feet “as though dead.” This was how the Revelation of Jesus Christ came to one of His closest followers, John the Apostle. Throughout this amazing revelation, John found himself on the ground quite often. He saw angels, demons, catastrophes and battles. He rejoiced at the triumph of Jesus. Finally, a mighty angel gave him a glimpse of the “Supper of the Lamb.” It was an overwhelming experience, as John fell at the feet of the God’s angel. In haste, the angel said, “don’t do that; worship GOD!”

comes the presence of God such as those he observed from Paul.

Paul lists the types of prayer that are essential for the worship service. “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...” (1 Tim. 2:1). These types of Christian worship important to Timothy’s ministry are equally important to our worship today.

The first type of prayer he mentions is “requests” (deesis). Most churches have some method for sharing prayer needs of people experiencing trials or challenges. We share these needs so that we can “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

Requests (i.e., deesis), are connected to needs. For example, if you are praying for someone who doesn’t have enough food, the Holy Spirit might respond, “What about all the food you have in your cupboard?” However, there are some needs that only God can meet. The second type is stated as “prayers” (proseuche). The Greek word refers to requests that God alone can meet.

The third type of prayer is “intercessions” (enteuxis). This refers to an intimate petition made to a person in authority on behalf of someone else. Intercessions are the beautiful expression of corporate prayer as a church focuses on God. Because we are children of the King, we come to Him in the intimacy of the relationship we share with Him to

ask His intervention in helping those whom we care about.

The fourth type of prayer to be included in worship is “thanksgiving” (eucharistia). While this can take the form of the spoken word, it is also heard through the singing of hymns. Psalms were sung (or chanted) - not read. Hebrew manuscripts contained markings so the chanter would know where the beginning, middle, and end of each sentence were. Many of the words of our hymns and praise choruses today are actually expressions of praise, thanksgiving, and adoration.

For this reason, we should never sing a hymn in a mechanical way without considering the words we are directing heavenward. Let these words be a form of thanksgiving—a prayer—expressed to the greatness of our God. When the whole body of believers joins in singing with thanksgiving, it is a beautiful expression of the church’s love to God. This is what the Apostle Paul is expressing in his comment: “When you gather together this is what your services ought to be like; that you sing and pray and praise God.”

Pastor Jan Fryer

Prayer Mobilization Team Member



Worship God

This subject is of the utmost importance to God. Let's take some time to unpack it and ponder it further.

Why should we worship God?

He is Holy (Ps. 99:9). He is the Creator (Rev. 14:7). He is the Only God (Is 46:9). He is worthy (Rev. 5:12). Each of these attributes reveals who God is. Worship is first about who *GOD* is. His attributes extend beyond humanity's attitudes. There are no moods or situations preventing us from worship (although we may choose not to). God is always worthy of worship, and worship is always about Him. Therefore we should worship God because He is worthy of all praise.

How should we worship God?

Worship toward God must be in Spirit and Truth. This involves our whole lives (John 4:24 and Rom. 12:1). Whether heard or quiet, active or still: God is interested in the heart of worship. Regardless of the manner of our worship, true worship must be sincere, honest and total. Christians worship with more than

words. We worship with our lives. God is actively involved in our lives. Everything we do is an act of worship because our lives are a reflection of God's active love.

Who should worship God?

All creation (Ps. 19); all in Heaven do (Rev. 4:8); every living thing will—even demons (Phil 2:9-11). How much more should we—His own redeemed ones?

Ask yourself some basic questions?

Do you worship only if you feel like it? How much of your life reflects worship to God? What or who do you give the greatest attention to throughout your day? What does your life say about how effectively you worship? Do not be afraid to ask God to help you to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Roberta Dimick
Contributor to the HeartCry

Worship
the
Father
in
spirit
and
truth.
John 4:23

Prayer

In Acts 4, the church is established and functioning well. In chapter five problems begin. Ananias and Saphira lie to the Holy Spirit and the apostles. Problems arise with the distribution of bread, discrimination, and heresies. Each problem presents threats to the church in Ephesus. So Paul's first assignment to Timothy is to address these problems with fearlessness.

The second assignment Paul gives Timothy is to replace each existing problem with a Biblical remedy. Paul gives his own priority list, beginning with public prayer. I believe he begins with public prayer for two reasons. First, public prayer focuses everyone's attention to God. Shared focus on God makes our church services different from Rotary and Lion's Club meetings. Public prayer has its focus on the person of Christ and not a cause or event.



Second, public prayer humbles us. Prayerful public humility requires us to gain some perspective concerning our shared humanity.

Satan relies on the church entering into worship with prior distractions. These distractions affect our personal and social perspectives that involve commonly shared areas in our lives. Like a tape recorder that won't shut off, distractions impact worship through their repetitive interruptions. These interruptions rob public worship of its focus on God. Paul suggested that Timothy begin with an invitation which wel-