

## ***It's All About Jesus – Why we worship Him***

### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. We spend an inordinate amount of time at House of Prayer in worship. It makes up at least half of all our prayer blocks. To put that in perspective, this week our prayer room ran for 56 hours of which approximately 28 hours was worship.
- B. HoPE's vision is expressed in the following three words:  
Worship – Intercession – Transformation  
**Worship** – Passionately worshipping because He is worthy  
**Intercession** – Partnering with God in agreement with His heart  
**Transformation** – Seeing His kingdom manifest on earth as it is in heaven
- C. There is a real cost to worship in finances and time. For us to run HoPE our budget is around \$250,000 plus countless volunteer hours. Many local churches employ worship leaders, while most take on more than just 'worship' a large part of their time is prepping for the Sunday service. Then there are the thousands of us who take the time to go Sunday morning to a worship service, plus other times during the week with friends or alone.

### **FOUR AREAS THAT JESUS IS WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE**

*Everything has goodness, power, and charm. But God is purest, fullest, endless goodness, power, charm, love, delight. And beauty. How does one conceive unlimited beauty? How can we talk with our limited concepts and words about him who is utterly endless? How do we speak accurately about splendor supreme?*

- Dubai, Fr. Thomas. *The Evidential Power of Beauty*

#### **I. WHO HE IS – Creator**

- A. Even if God did nothing else for us, we shouldn't harden our hearts but humbly worship Him.  
***<sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! <sup>2</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. (Ps. 95:6-7, NKJV)***
- B. Being that He formed us He had free will to create us and do as He pleased. He chooses to treat us good and faithfully.  
***<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! <sup>2</sup>Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. <sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. <sup>5</sup>For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.' (Ps. 100)***

- C. King David's understanding of the care God took to create Him caused David to write it out as a song for his musicians to sing that we still have today  
<sup>13</sup>*For you formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother's womb.* <sup>14</sup>*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. (Ps. 139: 13-14)*

## II. WHAT GOD HAS DONE – The Cross

- A. A correct understanding of the cross will lead us into worship of Jesus. Man was fallen and destined for hell until Jesus redeemed us. This should evoke a heart of gratitude and worship in us.  
<sup>2</sup>*Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"* <sup>3</sup>*And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.* <sup>4</sup>*So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.* <sup>5</sup>*But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." (Rev. 5:2-5, ESV)*
1. So I wept much – You need to feel the despair at the sinfulness of man before the real joy of the cross truly makes sense
  2. Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of the Root of David, has prevailed – Jesus has been the only one found worthy and will be the only one ever found worthy
- B. Our salvation was unto something; we weren't saved so we could live our merry own lives but so that we could give ourselves into glorifying God.  
<sup>9</sup>*And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy ... for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood..."* <sup>10</sup>*and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (Rev 5:9-10)*
1. have redeemed us to God – We belong to Him now. This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to us and we too should join in heaven in singing praises since we literally owe Him everything.
  2. made us kings and priests to our God – While this has its truest fulfilment in the age to come there is a present-day reality. We now get to serve God with the works of our hands (kings), and through our worship (priests).
- C. We see again in Isaiah. We are precious and loved in God's sight yet it wasn't for us that He saved us but for His glory.  
<sup>4</sup>*Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life.* <sup>5</sup>*Fear not, for I am with you...* <sup>6</sup>*Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth—* <sup>7</sup>*Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." (Is. 43:4-7)*

- D. John Piper in his sermon on Isaiah 43 states...

*Where this perspective is lost, and the magnifying of God's glory is no longer seen as the great aim of redemption, pitiful substitutes arise — man centered philosophies that exalt human value in a way that distorts the work of redemption and belittles the primacy of God. And surely I don't have to tell you in detail that this perspective of God-centeredness has been lost in our day, even in the churches. Man is the star in our contemporary drama and his comfort, his prosperity, and his health are the great goals. Of course God is there on the stage, but only as a kind of co-star or supporting actor to round out the picture for religious and cultural expectations.*

*– John Piper 'God Created Us for His Glory'*

- E. While how we give God glory is much greater than just musical worship, musical worship is a gift given to us to declare the praises of God and is a should be a large part of our life

***<sup>22</sup>I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.” <sup>23</sup>Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel. (Is. 44:22-23)***

### III. WHAT GOD IS DOING – Keeping us

- A. Right now God is looking after us, every 'good' or 'bad' thing that happens to us God works out for our own good.

***<sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28)***

***<sup>6</sup>being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6)***

- B. The greatest example of this is Job, God was sovereign and in control of everything that happened. Satan had to ask permission for everything that he did to Job and could only go as far as God gave him permission. We don't exist for our own glory but for God's. It is not about our own comfort or prosperity but we need to recognize God is allowing everything in our lives and give him praise that He is working everything for our good.

***<sup>20</sup>Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup>And he said: “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:20-21)***

- C. God's not going to leave us in despair but just as He did for Job God's heart is to bless us and we have a destiny to be 'Kings and priests' to our God.

#### IV. WHAT HE WILL DO – Judgment

- A. God is not going to leave our earth as it is but is coming one day to judge the corrupt systems of our earth  
*<sup>11</sup>I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. (Rev. 19:11)*
1. Faithful and True – On the day the Jesus comes to judge everything He does we will find to be faithful and true.
  2. in righteousness – Unlike earthly kings, everything He does is in righteousness and will bring forth righteousness.
- B. As much as it can be scary to look at the tribulation and God's judgment now we have the testimony of scripture that on that day we are going to look upon His judgments and break forth into praise.  
*<sup>1</sup>After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power belong to the Lord our God! <sup>2</sup>For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." (Rev. 19:1-2)*
- C. We should not only praise Him on that day but we need to praise Him on this side for what He will do. Jesus will be returning to the earth as a response to our songs that are lifted up to Him from the ends of the earth  
*<sup>10</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! <sup>11</sup>Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. <sup>12</sup>Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare His praise in the coastlands. <sup>13</sup>The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isa. 42:10-13)*

#### III. CONCLUSION

*"Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which 'comes upon you,' but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ."—Graham Kendrick*

- A. In the end we do not worship because of what we will get but because Jesus is worthy of receiving an expression of praise. Our worship is far bigger than just the songs we sing but often we make too little of our song of praises. *Jesus is simply worthy of a 24/7 expression of praise and worship here in the capital region.*