



followers of Jesus *seeking to glorify God*

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August 3 Devotional (for Sunday August 9)

Worship Series - 5 "Worship - Praising and Proclaiming"

I am going to restate the results of worshipping God.

1. Worship of God is a logical outcome of surrendering our lives to God. As recipients of God's mercy, grace and his presence we ought to naturally, or more accurately supernaturally, worship him. Worship is a human response to a gracious God.
2. Worship of God affects all other relationships. As Matthew 15 made clear a few weeks ago lip service to God while our hearts are far from him ends in empty and vain attempts to worship him. So too we cannot profess love for God while not loving others. As John 3:10 says, "By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother." Being of God means living for God including loving others.
3. Worshipping God involves all of life. All of life can be worship for the one yielded to Christ. Everything can be done for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).
4. Worship also produces results in the lives of the worshippers. Worship begets more worship. Yielding to the character of God produces more of the character of God in those who worship him.

What worship accomplishes in believer's lives is what was commanded in the Old Testament. And exceedingly more! The Law is good, and it is incapable of producing God's good pleasing and perfect will in our lives. Read Hebrews 10 in light of worship and the fruit produced in the worshipper's lives. Read it slowly. Reflect on the unfolding story of scripture. The story of redemption. Sinners becoming true worshippers. The One we worship being the Way.

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ²Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshippers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'"

⁸First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.

¹⁴For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:



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¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”

¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

A Call to Persevere in Faith

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

³⁷ For,

“In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.”

³⁸ And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”

³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Again there is so much we could discuss here. Let’s consider five parts of worship. And these same five results of worship increase where there is worship. Worship is transformative and produces fruit (results) in the lives of worshippers. These five aspects of worship and fruits of worship are:

Praise

Prayer

Proclamation

Persecution

Perseverance



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Praise - This passage is full of praise though the word is not used. The law exposed sin and reminded of sin. But praise to the One who takes away sin and makes us holy! “And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (v 10) “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” (v 14) “Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (v 17) Praise is part of worship and worship increases praise.

Prayer - Prayer is also running through this passage as Jesus and the Holy Spirit pray to the Father. Jesus announced that his house would be known as a house of prayer. Prayer is a part of worship and worship increases prayer.

Proclamation – Jesus in rapid fire succession declares he is here to do the Father’s will. ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’ (v 7) “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” (v 9) “In the scroll” could refer to several texts but certainly includes proclaiming the arrival of the Kingdom. He went about preaching and teaching and proclaiming good news. He declared that he shared nothing apart from what he received from the Father. Both his life and words proclaimed the Good News. Proclaiming is a part of worship and worship increases proclamation.

Persecution – We don’t like reading verses like 32-34, “³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property” and certainly don’t want to experience it. But persecution is inevitable. We are in a cosmic battle. The kingdom of heaven is warring against the kingdom of hell. When we worship the one true God all hell breaks loose, literally! The great serpent hates it and he and his minions do all they can to stop worship of God. The people glorified God through persecution and in sharing in the suffering of others. Persecution is part of worship. And worship increases persecution.

Perseverance – The verses we just read under persecution don’t end where we stopped. Look at what comes immediately after. The author declares that they suffered “because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.” Perseverance pays off, big time! All that we see around us is temporary. What is to come is eternal and lasts forever. The Lord is a rewarder of faithfulness and perseverance. In the letters to each of the seven churches John writes as Jesus declares some form of blessing to “the one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end”. Though the words are slightly different and the blessings are specific to each there is great reward to those who persevere. Perseverance is part of worship and worship increases perseverance.

Consider these 5 aspects of worship. In which are you worshipping well? What ones is there room to explore and grow?

Together, let’s grow in worship and watch God grow us through worship.

Pastor Gary