

Occasional Update 15

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Worship, Praise, Adoration

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD!

Then I [John] heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters, and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, "Hallelujah! [Praise the LORD!] for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure, for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, "Write this, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb'." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and [those] who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!"
(Revelation 19:6-10)

WORSHIP

Jesus said, "It is written, Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him" (Luke 4:8).

There is no other God – we are to worship the LORD, and Him only.

Jesus also said, "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in *spirit* and *truth*, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in *spirit* and *truth*." (John 4:23-24).

To worship in spirit is more than just worshipping from our heads; it comes from the heart – our spirit. But true worship which comes from our heart also needs to be shown by how we think, say and act! We need to ask ourselves, "What I think, sing, say, pray (how I worship) – are the words and the spirit, true for *me*?" We can sing some worshipful songs, hymns, or choruses; we can read familiar scriptures, but is it coming from our heart or are we just going through the motions? We sometimes sing songs, or read the Bible, while our thoughts are on other things!

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the **Lord God**,
"Who is, and who was, and who is to come, the **Almighty**" (Revelation 1:8)

He is the Lord, King of kings and Lord of lords, Almighty:

- He is the Creator of all things – the universe and all that fills it, including us, the earth and all that is on it; our sun, moon, stars, and so on. (Genesis 1 and 2; and John 1:3). **BUT** we *worship the Creator only*, not what He has created!
- He loves us with perfect love – a love so great that it took the Son of God to sacrifice His life, for our eternal salvation.
- He is our Provider, Protector, and so on.
- Jesus is our Saviour.

Therefore, we are not to worship people, other gods, idols, statues, evil spirits, etc. Instead, we are called to "Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2 KJV)

PRAISE

Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol Him, all you peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 117)

Praise is the recognition and expression of what God has done. And also the good things people have done or achieved. But this includes their character as well as their actions – how they live their lives. Some people have been honoured, praised, awarded medals, etc., for what they have done, but tragically they have lost their reward later, because of what they

have also done. A person can be praised for one thing, but dishonoured for another. Not so with God, who is forever to be praised!

ADORATION

I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my supplications.

He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. (Psalm 116:1-2)

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my rock in whom I take refuge... (Psalm 18:1-2)

Adoration of the Lord is a “loving affection” of Him, with a sense of high respect, reverence, and awe. He is not remote; He is not disinterested in us. He is not a man-made idol or “ethereal being”, but a loving Father and Friend to all His children.

In various Psalms we read of the Lord’s “steadfast love” [120 times in the book of Psalms!] love which endures forever: His mercy, forgiveness, faithfulness, kindness, provision, protection, and so on.

As a hymn says, “Come, let us adore Him – Christ the Lord!”

So ...

- **Worship** is to God alone – to our Creator, Lord and Saviour – for who He is.
- **Praise** to God is always fitting – for all He has done, all He is doing, and will do. Praise for Him is eternal because He is righteous, and will always be righteous, in all His ways.
- **Adoration** of the Lord is a heart-felt love for God; an expression of His love for us and of our love for Him.

Some Examples from Psalms

95:1-7 O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

96:9 Worship the LORD in holy splendour; tremble before Him, all the earth.

99:5, 9 Extol the LORD our God; worship at His footstool. Holy is He!

Extol the LORD our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

100:2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with singing.

Note that many Psalms contain more than one theme; for example, even psalms of praise and worship, or adoration, may also contain some verses which include intercession, thanks, confession, battles we face, pleading, despair, and so on.

Some Questions and a Suggestion

- Have I lost my “first love” of the Lord? (Revelation 2:2-4)
- Have I become “lukewarm” in my relationship with Him? (Revelation 3:15-19)
- Has my faith become more intellectual, than from my heart and spirit?
- Am I fooling myself about my relationship with God? Am I taking it for granted?
- Are my prayers mostly about asking God to help me?
- Have worship, praise and adoration diminished in my relationship with my Father?

A suggestion: That over a period of time, we read the *whole* of each of the 14 Psalms listed below, meditate on it, and pray to God from our spirit, not just our head.

(Reading just one a day will only take two weeks)

Psalms 8, 19, 24, 84, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 103, 121, 145, 150

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