

CrossRoads Baptist Church
October 4, 2006 6:30 p.m.
Revelation 4-5
Worship Series #10

“Earthly Worship is a Rehearsal for Heavenly Worship”

How important is the issue of worship? Ask God - very!

Warren Wiersbe says,

True spiritual worship is perhaps one of the greatest needs in our individual lives and in our churches. There is a constant emphasis today on witnessing for Christ and working for Christ, but not enough is said about worshipping Him. To *worship* means "to ascribe worth" (see Rev. 4:11; 5:12). It means to use all that we are and have to praise God for all that He is and does.

A. W. Tozer: "I can safely say of all that is revealed in the Word of God that any man or woman on this earth who is born and turned off by worship is not ready for Heaven."

Worship is the missing jewel in modern Evangelicalism. We're organized, we work, we have our agencies. We have almost everything, but there's one thing that the churches, even the gospel churches, do not have: that is the ability to worship. We are not cultivating the art of worship. It's the shining gem that is lost to the modern church, and I believe that we ought to search for this until we find it.

-- A. W. Tozer, *The Missing Jewel of the Evangelical Church* (Harrisburg: Christian Publishers, 1961), p. 1.

A. W. Tozer said, "We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God."

I am not interested first and foremost of the latest trends. But what is Heaven doing. The very hallways of Heaven are filled with the perfume of praise and worship. Oh, that our churches and lives would be as well.

Chapter 4: 1 begins with an open door so we know He wants to come and habitat among us. So let us learn about some principles of worship.

I. Worship is centered around a throne.

A. Picture of the throne

Throne is a favorite subject in Revelation. Used 46 times in the book and 14 times in chapter 4 alone. The throne was colorful and complete (rainbow went around it completely, not a half arc). This speaks of the mercifulness of God in wrath. Normally the rainbow appears after the storm, but here it appears before the storm because God has already promised security and safety to those in the midst of the wrath of God.

God is a god of wrath - vs. 5 - but mercy, too. It is interesting to note that there are ten episodes of worship in Revelation and they all precede scenes of judgment.

B. Participants around the throne

Twenty-four elders. These are not angels. They are enthroned and rewarded. Could represent the 24 division of priests from the OT, could represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles. I believe they just represent the completeness of the priests and kings who are now serving and reigning.

Four living creatures - all of God's creation, the four pictures of Jesus from the four gospels or all the angels. Most likely there are the completeness of angels since they seem to guard the throne and their repetitive phrase in verse 8 is like Isaiah 6.

II. Worship is centered on the person of the throne

A. Praise directed to the Father.

1. Holiness

- * Speaks of his self-existence - he is separate from anyone or anything.
- * Speaks of his purity.
- * Speaks of his independence

2. Power - Lord God Almighty

3. Eternal nature

"Who was and is and is to come."

4. Creator

5. Sustainer

This is the picture of chapter 5 of the breaking of the seals.

B. Praise directed to the Son

Chapter 5: 1 begins with "and" which means chapter 4 is not complete without chapter 5.

He looks and in the midst of the throne and the creatures and the elders is a Lamb.

- It was a Lamb. This is the heart of the Bible. It was the heart of the OT worship and it is the heart of the NT worship. In fact, not much of the order of worship has changed from the OT to the NT except now the sacrifice is complete.
- Slain lamb - Heaven will center around the cross and the blood. We will see the wounds visibly and will sing of the blood audibly.
- Slain lamb standing

A two inch long discolored eyetooth is revered by 400 million Buddhists as the most sacred object on earth. The tooth is supposed to

have been reclaimed from Buddha's funeral pyre in 543 B.C. and was brought to Ceylon 800 years later.

Today the tooth sits upon a golden lotus in the glorious temple of the tooth in Kandy, Ceylon. It is surrounded by rubies and tons of flowers.

Each year a hundred thousand faithful Buddhists come from many countries to gaze at the sacred tooth. They bring gifts of gold, silver and jewels to place within the temple.

d. Slain lamb with power and wisdom and spirits Omniscient

He was also a Lion. Lion - sovereignty, courage

of David - not from David because of his deity - he was before David
"of David" speaks of humanity

has prevailed - he has been in a fight but won

C. Praise is in the Spirit

Worship is always exciting - full of passion and intensity. There is no such thing as passive worship. Its as possible as oil and water mixing.

III. Worship is centered around two elements of worship

A. Prayers

My house shall be called a house of prayer. Developed a prayer room open for persons to come and pray.

B. Praise

- * Spontaneous

They cast their crowns off - yes that can mean a act of worship of taking their rewards.

* All are involved

Notice in the last of chapter 5 how they all join in. There will be no second-class worshippers in Heaven. No "just lookers and no takers" in Heaven.

"Worship is God's spiritual smoke detector that determines whether the fire of the Holy Spirit is burning in your heart."