

SERMON NOTES: THE INCREASE OF WORSHIP JANUARY 21 2024

Revelation 5:8-14 "And when He took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song with these words: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For You were slain, and Your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And You have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.' Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain - to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing.' And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: 'Blessing and honour and glory and power belong to the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.' And the four living beings said, 'Amen!' And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb."

1. What is Worship?

Psalms 95:6 "Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."

Psalms 96:9 "Worship the LORD in all His holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble before Him."

i. God Centred

Luke 7:38 "Then she knelt behind Him at His feet, weeping. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing His feet and putting perfume on them."

Psalms 29:2 "Honour the LORD for the glory of His name. Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness."

Mark 6:45-48 "Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that His disciples get back into the boat and head across the lake to Bethsaida, while He sent the people home. After telling everyone good-bye, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves."

ii. Lifestyle

1 Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

2. Why Worship?

i. God's Presence Comes

2 Chronicles 5:13,14 "The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the LORD with these words: 'He is good! His faithful love endures forever!' At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of God."

ii. God's Presence Changes Us

1 Samuel 10:6 "At that time the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person."

iii. Passes on an Inheritance

Psalms 78:4 "We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about His power and His mighty wonders."

3. How to Worship?

Biblically

i. Spirit and Truth

John 4:24 "For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

ii. Freedom to Worship

Acts 16:26 "Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!"