

## Worship Types 6-9-00

Last week we looked at the focus of our worship in Revelation 4,5. We saw in the 5 hymns of adoration that Jesus is the focus of our worship, which it is all about Who He is and His wonderful attributes but especially His holiness. We worship Him as Creator and Savior and for making us his people, royal priests, the Family of God. We have a new definition of worship now defined by the awe- inspiring revelation of Jesus we see in these chapters.

Next I would like to look at the twofold meaning of worship from the language of the Old and New Testaments. God chose the language and holy men of God spoke or wrote as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. So let us look at the two main types of words used for worship.

The first is from the Old Testament definition of the Hebrew *shachah*. It means to bow down, to adore, to lovingly venerate God. We sang Ps 95:6 earlier which contains this definition.

The same idea is found in the New Testament word *proskuneo*, to adore. It came up several times last week - Rev 4:10. Both of these words combine physical expression or posture and words we pray or sing, all of which are to focus on the Lord in adoration.

This type of worship whether corporate or private does not seem to be very productive from a modern perspective. You can't number it or measure it. Only a Christian can sense the urgent need in our spiritual lives to worship, to just bow in humble adoration and be still before God, or to sing from an overflowing heart of all His goodness.

The second meaning of worship is to actively serve, minister, work. Again it can be corporate or private. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word is *abad*. We find it in the familiar words of Joshua. "As for me and my house we will *serve* (or worship) the Lord." Joshua 24:15 The New Testament parallel is the Greek *latreuo* which is in our text today, Romans 11:33-12:2 see end of 12:1.

When we look at both the Old and New Testament words for worship we get a fuller picture of what is involved in worship. This second group of words rounds out the picture and shows us the worship adoring who He is demands that we be like Him, letting his life through us to a needy world. The first meaning is not so active as it is a focus, and the second is the action resulting from that focus, but it is not separate from it. They are both worship. To have the first without the second would be hypocrisy. When we worship in adoration a deepening revelation of Christ we should be conformed to that image. Isaiah 29:13 These people draw near to me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. Half of worship is no worship at all but mockery.

In most assemblies today we have those who come and sing the songs and read the words but their hearts are on set on their lusts and their real reason to be there is not the Lord. That is a mockery of God. That is saying, "I don't care if He sees, if He can, because I am my own master and I have no fear of his justice." Lord help us.

Let us read the whole text for today and see the connection. It begins with the doxology of praise in 11:33. See how these two definitions of worship join and reinforce each other? The doxology of 11:33-36 is like those great hymns of Rev 4,5. It worships for Who He is and what He has done and ends in the great YES! Amen. To all that God is and does, we can but say wholeheartedly "Yes!"

The next two verses 12:1,2 tell of our lifestyle response to this great display of merciful love. This mercy reminds us of last week's passage in which none was able to open the scroll and John wept and wept, but mercy sent the Lamb. Paul urges us, invites us, because of who He is and what He has done- to live a response of worship, a lifestyle of worship. It is not an obligation or a duty but a loving response that is only appropriate. We can do no less. Anything less is sad statement of our ungracious self-centered hearts.

In Isaac Watts hymn 'When I Survey the Wonderous Cross' the last two lines reflect this passage. "Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

We must ask ourselves if our response has been appropriate? Do you owe Him everything because of his sacrificial love toward you?

Then there are some very descriptive words about that service or worship. We are to "offer up" our bodies. That was a military term meaning to stand at attention before a superior. It reminds me of the story of Noriega. After coming to Christ he described his new position like this: "I once used to be the Commander and gave orders to my men. Now I have a Commander and wait on His orders." In the Old Testament it reminds us of little Samuel, "Here I am." We present ourselves available and submitted. We present our "bodies", which includes the physical, emotional, intellectual, volitional and spiritual to the authority of Christ. Holding nothing back, it is all sacrificed on the altar. But don't get our American perspective of that word. The Biblical idea is to be honored to be able to give back - the grace of God has been on you and so you are made capable of giving back a small portion of all that you have been blessed with. That is the true meaning.

Now look at the aspects of this sacrifice. It is living. The resurrected life of Christ is genuine life expressed through our physical lives. Because we have been made alive in Christ we live out our lives very differently than the world and that difference is the life of Christ in us. Gal 2:20 No longer I... Ro 6:13

Next is to be a HOLY sacrifice. Holy is wholly God's, His possession and not your own. We are set apart for His purposes. In all we do, work, play, worship, interactions with others, we are to be first and foremost the Lord's instrument and that is holy. Holiness is a radical thing. It is certainly difficult while we are in the process, growing in grace is a tremendously exciting process. We are to believe who we are – see message 3 weeks ago- and who God has created us to be, and continually present that to God, day by day, moment by moment.

It is to be an acceptable or pleasing sacrifice. God said of Jesus, "with Him I am pleased". We come back to the life of Christ in us

that we yield to continually. We are in a wonderful process of sanctification. We are acceptable to God in Jesus right now, but He keeps working on us as we yield to him on an ongoing basis.

Living sacrificially for the Lord's sake, for the extension of His kingdom, for the good of other people, is the only reasonable, intelligent, thoughtful way to live. Here we are asked some important questions, Do I put my entire self at God's disposal? Do I hold back in terms of my physical energy, my material resources, or my time? Am I only presenting a part of myself to him on a consistent basis? If so I am limiting what He can do in my life. 1Cor 6:19b,20a "...you are not your own? For you were bought with a price..." Are you truly His standing at attention before Him?

Listen to how Phillip's translates this passage: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves toward the goal of true maturity." God has a great plan and that is to make us co-laborers with Him to change the world around us. It's a good plan, for us to live as examples of His transforming power.

Do we recognize the patterns of the world? Are we like jello fitting into those molds? Or do we stand out in stark contrast? Just for a second let me name a few, selfishness, competition, belittling and slandering others, compromising to get ahead of others. Fitting in or standing out in contrast? Life in Christ is not about satisfying your self, but life in Christ is satisfying. Unlike what the world would have us believe, compromise brings great sorrow, but self-sacrificing cost brings great joy. God's Spirit is always at work renewing your thinking and making it like His own. It is a positive challenge, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Transformed is *metamorphosis* in Greek. To be conformed to the world is to be a caterpillar. To be a Christian is to be a butterfly. 2Cor 3:17,18 You are in this cocoon phase and about to emerge in His likeness. ML says that "we have been given the Spirit, the Word,

and the church." Let the Spirit convict and challenge you, lead and guide you through the Word. Let the church keep you accountable, encouraging you to move forward in that transformation. Continue to change - as you worship on bended knee as you worship with your life.