

WIRED FOR WORSHIP

AUGUST 15, 2021

WORSHIP

Lord of All Creation,
How Great Thou Art,
When I Think About the
Lord

WELCOME

Who or what are you a
biggest fan of? What do
you find extraordinary
about that person or
group?

WORD

REVELATION 5:9-10

⁹And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. ¹⁰You have made them into a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”

(READ REVELATION 5
AHEAD OF TIME)

Are you a fan of films, video games, music, sports, etc.? Interestingly, the English word “fan” comes from the word “fanatic”. A fanatic is a fanatical follower of the one they idolize. The word fanatic also comes from a description of people who are so frenzied in their worship of God that people around them consider them crazy. They were described this way because they were seen to have excessive enthusiasm for God. Has anyone ever called you a fanatic for your faith in Jesus?

People are looking for things to be enthusiastic about. Many people don't have something or someone that they are really in awe of, excited about, or really changed their lives. We look for that because all of us are wired by God to worship. When we see something that is awesome, extraordinary, or beyond our expectation or imagination, our natural inclination is to stand in awe, to give honor, or even to worship that thing.

1. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO WORSHIP.

God has planted eternity in the human heart (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**). There is a sense in all of us that there must be something more to this life. There is endless striving to find fulfillment and satisfaction in our lives. That is the root of our pursuits. Our pursuits can lead us to positive things and negative things. These are manifestations of our desire for that something more.

King Solomon knew that craving for more. **Ecclesiastes 2:1-5, 8** provide an account of his quest for fulfillment. He tried to fill that void with the “good life”, drinking, success in work, accumulating wealth, entertainment, and sensual pleasure; only to find emptiness in the end (**Ecclesiastes 2:11**).

We are all looking for something to fill that void but most often we're searching in the wrong places. Today, people may not worship idols just like in the Old Testament but we can be just as drawn as they were to idolatry. God warned the prophet Ezekiel that the root of the issue is not the physical idols but the things that people kept in their own hearts that led them away from God and into sin (**Ezekiel 14:3**). These are the idols of the heart—things that draw us to seek our own desires and away from God. They are natural inclinations embellished by Satan's lies that make us want to worship things that can never satisfy. The only solution is to worship the person who deserves our worship—Jesus Christ.

2. JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP.

John told of the story of Thomas who doubted Jesus (**John 20:24-25**). However, Thomas declared Jesus as his Lord and God (**vv.26-28**) as soon as it was clear that Jesus was risen from the dead. He responded in worship of Jesus. The doubting Thomas is known historically as the person who brought the gospel of Jesus Christ as far as India. He spent the rest of his life making known who Jesus Christ is and he died a martyr's death because of his proclamation of the gospel. Worship of Jesus goes hand in hand with proclaiming Him to the ends of the earth! It is the highest form of worship that His disciples can offer.

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The apostle John himself was boiled in oil but was able to survive and lived in exile in Patmos where God revealed to him what will happen in heaven in the future. Who is the central figure to receive worship in heaven? No one else is worthy to open the scroll (**Revelation 5:1-3**). When we go to heaven, there is one focal point of worship and that is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb that was slain (Revelation 5:9-10). He alone is worthy of our praise, worship, and adoration! This message must be proclaimed in every tribe, tongue, and nation in order for this prophecy to be fulfilled.

3. GOD WANTS EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE TO WORSHIP JESUS.

God's desire is not just for a few people but for everyone, everywhere to have a chance to worship Him. **Psalm 96:1-3** reminds us of God's heart for all people, not just the chosen people of Israel, to know and worship the Lord.

The experience of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament is similar to that of many Christians today. Israel reveled in the fact that they were God's chosen people. They sought the blessings of God and they saw themselves special compared to the rest of the world. But God intended from the beginning that the nation of Israel will be a blessing to all the nations when He revealed His plan to Abraham (**Genesis 22:17-18**). One day, He will send His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world so that everyone will experience His salvation. Sadly, the nation of Israel never fulfilled the role they are intended to play. They forgot God and started following other gods. They forgot their calling to demonstrate to the world who God really is and His desire to be known and worshipped by people everywhere.

Like Israel, we often forget that the blessings of salvation and forgiveness are not just intended for us. We were given the Great Commission so that we should be the people who will make known the salvation of God everywhere. That is part of our call and existence as a church. This should remind us of **Romans 10:14-15**.

One day there will be the greatest feast of all time—a celebration to end celebrations! At the center of the feast is Jesus—the Lamb who was slain, who is worthy to receive our worship (**Revelation 7:9-12**).

If you are seeking fulfillment in other things, confess it before Jesus and worship Him only. Set aside the idols of your heart and allow Jesus to be your sole purpose for living and the one and only object of worship in your life.

It's not about us. It's about Jesus and Him alone!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Self-Check

What things have you tried to fill your life with instead of Jesus?

2. Setting It Right

Who do you know that the Lord would have you tell about Jesus?

3. Living It Out

What else can you do to help bring Jesus to the ends of the earth?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to seek Jesus Christ—the One worthy of our worship. Be a friend and help those who are in physical and spiritual need through prayers and acts of kindness. Get involved with CCF BEYOND in its endeavors to make Christ known to people of all nations.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 5:9

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