

Christ

The Worthiness of Christ To Be Worshipped

Introduction

One has said that the dearth of the worship of Christ is not due to the smallness of the object but the minuteness of our appreciation. I believe that to be true, for such is the wonders of the Lord that eternity will never bring all angelic and redeemed humanity to a complete knowledge and appreciation of Him. The Lord Himself said, "No man knoweth the Son, but the Father" (Matt. 11:27).

It is not enough to say that the Lord is worthy of worship, or sing about worshipping Him. "Worship" is both a noun and a verb and being a verb it indicates activity! Is it possible that the "name" of Jesus can be used as a formula to begin and end prayers, and not a real heart appreciation of personal need of Christ to be the basis of our approach and acceptability? When the disciples asked the Lord to teach them to pray, the first part of it was taken up with the acknowledgment and worthiness of God and then our needs, and finished with the glorification of God (Matt. 6:9-13). Worshipping the Lord is being focused on one truth of the Lord, or possibly at times on several truths until the heart can contain itself no longer and automatically worships Him (Psa. 45:1-2). Worship of the Lord necessitates fellowshipping with Him, and in one's spirit getting to know Him. There can be no set time duration on it. Its duration may be only for a moment of time or a longer period. Sometimes well meaning folk speak about the "worship meeting," a term the scriptures never use, and while it is not a Biblical expression, it is a remembrance meeting. In it one may worship or simply be an associate in the worshipping of others.

There are some who would say that we should not worship the Lord and only the Father, a matter I find scripture would strongly oppose. Whither it was before the Lord came, while He was here on earth (Matt. 14:33; 28:9; Lk. 24:52) or in Heaven (Rev. 5:9, 12-14), He was, is and will be worshipped.

When we are led by the Holy Spirit in worshipping the Lord, the individual is led into deeper observations and appreciations of Him. This is to be expected for the Lord said, "He (the Holy Spirit) shall glorify me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (Jn. 16:14, 15).

There ought to be worship ascending to the Lord

While there are a multitude of reasons why one ought to worship the Lord, this paper will consider only two:

- a) The wonder of who and what He is
- b) The loveliness of His attitude to the one who betrayed Him and those who forsook Him.

The wonder of who and what He is

- a) It is completely irrelevant whatever aspect of the Lord one considers, the meditation on Him ought to lead to worship. In the wonder of His excellencies one finds themselves in the panorama of spiritual vista too vast to comprehend for:
 - i) He has preeminence being the only potentate without peer and without succession (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16).
 - ii) He is more distinguished than any prince (Dan. 8:25).
 - iii) He is more glorious than any other lord (Rev. 17:14; 19:16).
 - iv) He is more celebrated than any celebrity (Rev. 5:9, 12-14).
 - v) He is more morally perfect than any other human being sinless and holy (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 3:5).
- b) He is the core of the entire scripture of truth, His redemptive work is the entire theme of the scriptures. His creating and sustaining ability manifested in His power, wisdom and understanding far exceeds the greatest intellects who have ever or will ever exist.
- c) Restricting ones thoughts to the Burnt Offering (Lev. 1:1-17), it is a springboard, a faint shadow of profound truths concerning Him. Viewing Him as such and musing on the head of the offering as it

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foreshadows His head, our minds follow the pathway of His purity, knowledge, wisdom, systematic ordering of His thinking. The young woman in the Song of Solomon will speak poetically of His hair, His head, eyes, mouth and legs (Song of Sol. 5:9-16). How lovely to read, “looking upon Jesus as He walked” (Jn. 1:36) which causes one to consider how non-deviating His walk was, and how consistent His walk was to the will of God.

- d) The animal was flayed (Lev. 1:6). The mind can muse on the trueness of His heart's motives, the genuineness of His sympathy, the un-dismissing of His zeal, and the unboundedness of His love.
- e) It always amazes me at the controlled calmness of the Lord to those who spitefully afflicted Him. There are few things more agitating and naturally call for a response than being belittled and openly disgraced. It is hurtful to the individual especially when they have, over a considerable period of time, shown love and unmerited kindness to the afflicter. When this happened the Lord, He took it without a word of retaliation. This is confirmed by the scriptures:
 - i) Prophetically: Isaiah the prophet wrote, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth” (Isa. 53:7).
 - ii) Historically: “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” (1 Pet. 2:23).
 - iii) Evangelistically: “The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth” (Acts 8:32).
 - iv) Exemplarily: “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1Pet. 2:21).
- f) When I consider the Lord beaten, humiliated, spat on, whipped, made sport of, and yet He did not revile or threaten; is He a man who had no backbone to be so humiliated, just taking the humiliation judging it better to say nothing, or be so weak He could do nothing but just take it? A thousand times “No”. He was a man who could have called ten thousand angels, whose love for those who abused Him was greater than the thoughts of vengeance or self justification. The Lord was a man who carefully weighed the hideousness of the deeds of humanity against God, who was saddened at the human depravity of the human heart, and weighing it all, in love He says, “I will bear the hurt myself, I will endure the wrath of God they deserve”. As the disciples said in a different context, “What manner of man is this?” (Mk. 4:41)

Christ and the loveliness of His attitude to the one who betrayed Him and those who forsook Him.

- a) I would think that the only thing worse than ones enemies despising an individual, is those who one views as their closest associates and friends abandoning them in their hour of need. When the motley crowd came to Gethsemane to take the Lord, the scriptures record, “Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled” (Matt. 26:56), “And they all forsook him, and fled” (Mk. 14:50). Then see His grace for on the evening of His resurrection, He came to these very men to comfort them in their sorrow and fear (Jn. 20:19-20; 26, 28). Beautiful attitude, not a word of rebuke nor of dragging up their recent past failures, or comparing them to the confidence the thief on the cross had in the Lord. He was the only one who believed in His resurrection, evidenced by what he said in Luke 23:42. Not a word of admonishment for failing to believe His words, for He told them He would rise again (Matt. 20:19; Mk. 8:31, 10:34). How exceedingly gracious.
- b) Then we consider His attitude and words to Judas. It is almost heart-breaking to read of the callousness of Judas, even when the Lord offered him the sop. By so doing, the Lord was still offering friendship and forgiveness (Jn. 13:26). Then we read of an unbelievable happening. Immediately having taken the sop, then Satan entered into Judas (Jn. 13:27). Judas took the gift but rejected the giver! Then later Judas did a most tragic thing that is possible for one to do, He kissed the Lord (Matt. 26:49). See the darkness of that moment. Judas kissed the door of Heaven and then went out and committed suicide, departing to his

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own place (Acts 1:25). The Lord had sent him out on missionary trips (Matt. 10:1-7) and now he commits a heinous activity. If that was done against me, how would I react? How would I speak to someone to whom I had so definitely offered friendship and assisted for over three years, knowing they were going out to secure the business deal which would seal my death? Idealistically I might feel sorry for the individual but speaking naturally, spite, anger, and hostility would fill my heart. I would be filled with fury wanting vindication, and in my heart holding a frozen hatred awaiting the time when God will judge. But how did Christ speak so gently? The disciples thought He said, “give something to the poor” (Jn. 13:29). What perfection!

As we start to appreciate these overwhelming truths, automatically our hearts bow in worship for the wonder of how Christ responded, even to the disciples who forsook Him, and in the most trying situations.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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