

## WORSHIP IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We are missing *the genuine and sacred offering of ourselves and our worship* to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus was born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross and rose from the grave ***to make worshippers out of rebels!***

... we should not be concerned about working for God until we have learned the meaning and the delight of worshipping Him.

God [calls us] to that for which He created us - to worship Him and to enjoy Him for ever! It is then, out of our deep worship, that we do His work.

God has provided His salvation that we might be individually and personally, ***vibrant children of God, loving God with all our hearts and worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness ...***

Listen to me! Practically every great deed done in the church of Christ all the way back to the apostle Paul was done by people blazing with the radiant worship of their God.

... if we give ourselves to God's call to worship, everyone will do more than he or she is doing now. Only, what he or she does ***will have significance and meaning to it.***

## TRUE WORSHIP DEMANDS NEW BIRTH

*Tozer links worship with ideas of fearing God, loving God and having joy/happiness in God.*

The God who redeemed us in love, through the merits of the Eternal Son, is not unreasonable. He is not selfish. Neither is He temperamental. What he is today we shall find Him tomorrow and the next day and next year.

The God who desires our fellowship and communion is not hard to please, although He may be hard to satisfy. **He expects of us only what He has Himself supplied.** He is quick to mark every simple effort to please Him and just as quick to overlook our imperfections when He knows we meant to do His will.

This is the best of good news: God loves us for ourselves. He values our love more than He values galaxies of new created worlds. He remembers our frame and knows that we are dust.

The God we love may sometimes chasten us, it is true. But even this He does with a smile of a Father who is bursting with pleasure over an imperfect but promising son who is coming every day to look more and more like the One whose child he is.

***We should revel in the joy*** of believing that God is the sum of all patience and the true essence of kindly good will. ***We please Him most, not by frantically trying to make ourselves good, but by throwing ourselves into His arms with all our imperfections and believing that He understands everything—and loves us still.***

*This chapter has some similar content to 'God is easy to live with' in The Root of Righteousness*  
<http://andrewgroves.wordpress.com/2010/12/03/he-expects-of-us-only-what-he-himself-first-supplied/>

## **MUCH THAT IS CALLED WORSHIP IS NOT**

Men and women continue to try to persuade themselves that there are many forms and ways that seem right in worship. But God in His revelation has told us that He is spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. ***God takes the matter of worship out of the hands of men and puts it in the hands of the Holy Spirit.***

It is impossible for any of us to worship God without the impartation of the Holy Spirit. It is the operation of the Spirit of God within us that enables us to worship God acceptably through that Person we call Jesus Christ, who is Himself God.

***So worship originates with God and comes back to us and is reflected from us, as a mirror. God accepts no other kind of worship.***

***Worship must be in spirit and in truth!***

It must be the truth of God and the Spirit of God. When a person yielding to God and believing the truth of God, is filled with the Spirit of God, even the faintest whisper will be worship.

We must humbly worship God in spirit and in truth. Each one of us stands before the truth to be judged. ***Is it not now plain that the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit of God, far from being an optional luxury in our Christian lives, is a necessity.***

## **WE MUST WORSHIP ONLY THE ETERNAL GOD**

I belong to a company of plain people who believe the truth revealed in the Bible. These are the people who believe that God in the beginning made the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein. We believe that it was God who made man in His own image and breathed into him the breath of life and said unto him, "Now, live in My presence and worship Me for that is ***your chief end***. Increase and multiply and ***fill the earth with worshipers***.

But why does the bird sing so beautifully? It is because the God who made him is the Chief Musician of the universe. He is ***the Composer of the cosmos***. He made the harp in those little throats and the feathers around them and said, "Go and sing." Thankfully, ***the birds obeyed and they have been singing and praising God ever since they were created***.

Actually, the wisest person in the world is the person who knows the most about God. The only real sage worthy of the name is the one who realizes that the answer to creation and life and eternity is a theological answer not a scientific answer. You must begin with God. Then you begin to understand everything in its proper context. ***All things fit into shape and form when you begin with God***.

## GENUINE WORSHIP INVOLVES FEELING

We should never forget that God created us to **be joyful worshipers**, but sin drew us into everything else but worship. Then in God's love and mercy in Christ Jesus, we were restored into the fellowship of the Godhead **through the miracle of the new birth**.

Real worship is, among other things, **a feeling about the Lord our God**. It is in our hearts. And we must be willing to express it in an appropriate manner. We can express our worship to God in many ways. But if we love the Lord and are led by His Holy Spirit, our worship will always bring **a delighted sense of admiring awe and a sincere humility** on our part.

I once heard Dr. George D. Watson, one of the great Bible teachers of his generation, point out that men can have two kinds of love for God **the love of gratitude or the love of excellence**. He urged that we go on from gratefulness to a love of God just because He is God and because of the excellence of His character. Unfortunately, God's children rarely go beyond the boundaries of gratitude. I seldom hear anyone **in worshipful prayer admiring and praising God for His eternal excellence**.

Such fascination with God must necessarily have an element of adoration. You may ask me for a definition of adoration in this context. I will say that when we adore God, all of the beautiful ingredients of worship are brought to white, incandescent heat with the fire of the Holy Spirit. **To adore God means we love Him with all the powers within us. We love Him with fear and wonder and yearning and awe.**

The admonition to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart... and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37) can mean only one thing. It means to adore Him. **I use the word "adore" sparingly, for it is a precious word**. I love babies and I love people, but I cannot say I adore them. Adoration I keep for the only One who deserves it. In no other presence and before no other being can I kneel in reverent fear and wonder and yearning

## **IF YOU WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, WHAT HAPPENS ON MONDAY?**

Do you quietly bow your head in reverence when you step into the average gospel church? I am not surprised if your answer is no. There is grief in my spirit when I go into the average church, for we have become a generation ***rapidly losing all sense of divine sacredness in our worship***. Many whom we have raised in our churches no longer think in terms of reverence which seems to indicate they doubt that God's Presence is there. In too many of our churches, you can detect the attitude that anything goes. It is my assessment that losing the awareness of God in our midst is a loss too terrible ever to be appraised.