

Morning Sermon June 24, 2018  
"Beautiful Worship" Psalm 96:9

I. Oh, worship the LORD and no one else –  
Oh, worship the LORD... (Psalm 96:9A NKJ)

1. The Word worship in English is taken from the word worth, referring to something of value. When we worship someone or something we are acknowledging the worth or value of that Person or thing. When we jump up cheering / applauding a musical performance, or other kind of performance, especially when we do it with a great deal of excitement that is a kind of worship. We are ascribing worth, we are admiring someone's talent!
2. Of course, God deserves such worship, Exodus 15, following the drowning of the Egyptian army shows us spontaneous, excited worship of God -

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! <sup>2</sup>The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. (Exodus 15:1-2 NKJ)

3. However, the Hebrew word for worship, and the Bible's description of it, says even more –

שָׁחָהּ shachah {shaw-khaw}

**Meaning:** 1) to bow down / before superior in homage / before God in worship / before false gods or before angel(s) wrongly

- A. Bowing down is a submissive posture, it is an acknowledgement of a Supreme Superior to the point that Biblically it is wrong for us to worship / bow down to anything or anyone other than God!

B. This is why Mordecai refuses to bow to Haman -  
And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning

him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage. <sup>3</sup>Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" <sup>4</sup>Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup>When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. <sup>6</sup>But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus-- the people of Mordecai. (Esther 3:2-6 NKJ)

- C. This is interesting because it is clear there is a certain respect due government –

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (Romans 13:1 NKJ)

For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. (Romans 13:6-7 NKJ)

- D. Yet it is abundantly clear God back Mordecai's not bowing to Haman –

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided. (Esther 7:10 NKJ)

- E. See even an angel refuses the worship (bowing) due to God alone –

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." (Revelation 22:8-9 NKJ)

II. How do we best worship our God?

1. In the beauty of holiness –  
...in the beauty of holiness! ... (Psalm 96:9B NKJ)

Beauty הַדָּרָהּ hadarah {had-aw-raw'} **Meaning:** 1) adornment, glory 1a) holy adornment (of public worship)

A. The word *beauty* here means “adornment” and many churches and ministers because of this are gaudily adorned, the building, the ministers robe, sometime with extreme and brilliant colors.

B. The OF HOLINESS part to me communicates an entirely different kind of adornment / beauty –

Consider what we know even of Sarah’s beauty, it was INNER beauty, note in the passage holiness is mentioned in connection with inner, rather than outward beauty –

Do not let your adornment be outward-- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel-- <sup>4</sup> rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. <sup>5</sup> For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. (1 Peter 3:3-6 NKJ)

C. It is with this same inner Beauty of Holiness that the church the bride of Christ adorns herself for her husband –

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2 NKJ)

D. This is part of our preparation for the Lord’s Supper, it is also what the Lord’s Supper reminds us of –

- We are sinners, even our best works are filthy rags –

But we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 NKJ)

- Yet, we are washed, sanctified by the blood of Christ –

... just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27 NKJ)

Holiness here refers to two things:

(1) Separateness, we are set apart for Christ, we are His and His alone. We are to have this kind of relationship with God –

"You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:3 NKJ)

(2) Purity – like that of Christ –

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:1-3 NKJ)

This has to be an inner, heart purity –

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7 NKJ)

So is true worship –

These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. (Matthew 15:8 NKJ)

2. How do we best worship God? Trembling, the fear of the LORD

- Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. (Psalm 96:9 NKJ)

The great problem both in the world and in the church today is God is not feared -

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Psalms 2:11 NKJ)

Praise the LORD! Blessed *is* the man who fears the LORD, *Who* delights greatly in His commandments. (Psalm 112:1 NKJ)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7 NKJ)

The best kind of fear is connected with forgiveness –

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But *there is* forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. (Psalms 130:3-4 NKJ)

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! It should be an awful (fearful) thing to us that our problem is SO GREAT that nothing but the death of God’s Son can cure it!

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