

Sunday Evening July 1, 2018

“Parts of Christian Worship” Revelation 5:8-14

I. True worship is regulated by the Word, God's will must be done and rejoiced in, in worship –

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Revelation 5:8 NKJ)

1. Don't miss the PRIORITY of God's Word and Will which is emphasized in Revelation 5 –

And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a **scroll** written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the **scroll** and to loose its seals?"³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the **scroll**, or to look at it.⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the **scroll**, or to look at it.⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the **scroll** and to loose its seven seals."⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.⁷ Then He came and took the **scroll** out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.⁸ Now when He had taken the **scroll**, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Revelation 5:1-8 NKJ)

Note what is written about the SCROLL –

A. It is written inside and on the back... Revelation 5:1 meaning it is full, this scroll is full of truth

B. It is sealed with seven seals. Revelation 5:1 B A complete and perfect number of seals, meaning this scroll is impossible to open (at least almost impossible –

But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (Luke 18:27 NKJ)

C. Look, no one but the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb is able to open this, but HE CAN, therefore He is worthy of praise!

What is this scroll but the revealing of the fullness of God's Word and will! This is what the Bible is as well –

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJ)

2. Regulated by the Word, means the Bible instructs us, teaches us about how God wants us to worship Him, for instance –

A. We are to worship in Spirit and truth –

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24 NKJ)

B. The ark was not to be touched –

And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand* to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.⁷ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his error*; and he died there by the ark of God. (2 Samuel 6:6-7 NKJ)

C. Only priests were to offer incense to God –

About King Uzziah it is written –

But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to *his* destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:16 NKJ)

See also 2 Chronicles 26:17-21

D. Images of God are obviously prohibited from worship –

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6 NKJ)

3. Elements of worship are described in God's Word –

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them

was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. (Revelation 5:8-14 NKJ)

A. *The scroll is God's Word, His will was, is communicated in that scroll is it also is in the Bible*

B. *Revelation 5:8 there is a falling down, a humility before God in worship, and before the Lamb –*

God and Christ are to be the center of our worship! This is part of what distinguishes "worship" from "evangelism" Worship is God focused while evangelism, though empowered by God is man focused! Drama?

C. *Note there is music - each having a harp :8*
⁹ *And they sang a new song, saying:*

D. *Note there are prayers - and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

E. *Focus on Christ, the Lamb, and His work on the cross which redeemed us, the Lord's Supper also points to this –*

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ *Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.* ⁴⁴ *Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,* ⁴⁵ *and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.* ⁴⁶ *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,* ⁴⁷ *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.* (Acts 2:42-47 NKJ)

II. True worship is empowered by God's Spirit –

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, (Philippians 3:3 NKJ)

1. The Spirit falls on us –

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. (Acts 10:44 NKJ)

"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. (Acts 11:15 NKJ)

2. We are to desire the Spirit's filling –

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesian 5:18 NKJ)

3. Pray for the Spirit's power and presence in your life –

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:9-13 NKJ)

III. Problems:

- 1. Churches become regulated, without much of God's Word, it devolves into tradition, or worse we do this because this is what we have always done, without knowledge.*
- 2. Churches have POWER, without God's Spirit, loud music, instruments, skilled players, sound systems, emotional messages replace God's Spirit.*

IV. Occasional parts of worship –

Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. ⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. (Psalm 149:3-4 NKJ)

"You go, therefore, and read from the scroll which you have written at my instruction, the words of the LORD, in the hearing of the people in the LORD'S house on the day of fasting. And you shall also read them in the hearing of all Judah who come from their cities. ⁷ "It may be that they will present their supplication before the LORD, and everyone will turn from his evil way. For great is the anger and the fury that the LORD has pronounced against this people." (Jeremiah 36:6-7 NKJ)

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; (Ecclesiastes. 3:4 NKJ)

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