

IT'S
NOT
ABOUT
YOU

HOW WORSHIP TRANSFORMS MAN AND EXALTS GOD



LAST WEEK'S
MESSAGE

Authentic Worship

Authentic worship is more than singing or listening to the message. It is GOD-CENTERED, and it begins from the heart. WORSHIP is our proper response to WHO God is, WHAT He has done, and WHAT He continues to do. The more we know God, the better we can worship Him. Psalm 96 shows us that worship is an expanding flow of personal, communal, and universal worship of God. We'll look at three main points in the psalm:

PRAISE (Psalm 96:1-4)

Worship is PRAISE. Psalm 96:1-2 emphasizes that it's not about us, it's about GOD. The verb "SING" is repeated and in the present tense. Worship is something we do regularly. We are commanded to sing to the Lord personally and with others with an attitude of joy! It is always fresh! We praise God and bless His name for the things that He is continually doing and teaching us in our daily encounters with Him. Worship is proclaiming His goodness and His salvation to others. The word "proclaim good tidings" can be translated as EVANGELIZE! We worship God when share the good news! Worship is more than not just a one-day event, nor is it confined to a place. It is a way of life. 1 Corinthians 10:31 reminds us to "do all for the glory of God" – pointing people to God in everything we do.

PROTECTION (Psalm 96:5-8)

Psalm 96:5-8 contrasts God to idols. It talks about His greatness, splendor, majesty, strength, and beauty. We are to ascribe all glory and honor to Him. God alone deserves our worship, love, and devotion. Worshiping God protects us from counterfeit gods or idols.

What are the idols of life? It can be something good – children, career, ministry, and the most dangerous idol, the SELF. An idol is anything that we love more than God. True worship begins when we surrender our idols to Him and begin a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Tim Keller said worship is "engaging your mind, heart, and will – your whole being." Because of who God is and what He has done, we acknowledge His ownership and sovereignty in everything, and

this week's memory verse

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

REVELATION 5:9

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offer our best to Him (Deuteronomy 16:16-17). The best form of worship is offering our body, our life, our all to God – a living and holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1). God deserves our best, our life, our entire being! Have you dedicated your entire life to the LORD?

PERSPECTIVE (Psalm 96:9-13, Psalm 73)

Authentic worship aligns our perspective to God. Our perspective should be to always acknowledge Him as the coming King and Judge. Psalm 73 illustrates this point in the psalmist's situation. He was so discouraged because the wicked prosper (Psalm 73:3-5). He felt sorry for himself because even as a follower of God, he seemed to lack in blessings. His perspective shifted when he came to God's presence – and there he realized the end of wicked people (vv. 16-19). His eyes were opened, and he realized that the greatest blessing is God Himself - His presence and His promise (vv. 25-26).

Learn to appreciate God's presence as you worship. Like a thermostat, recalibrate and realize what you and I need – a perspective transformed, faith exercised, and a joyful expectation of His coming again (Psalm 96:13). May we all practice real, authentic worship as God deserves!

discussion questions

How do I prepare so I will be ready for the best day of my life?

How should the reality of Christ's return, rapture, and reward impact your life?

How can you share this truth to others?

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