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WORSHIP, PART I

We all are worshipers whether we know it or not. We all worship someone or something every day of our lives.

Most of us worship nothing more than these little tiki gods or maybe fat Buddha statues. We worship our cars, our houses, our jobs, our bank accounts, our investments.

The big thing today is Hollywood celebrities: movie stars, athletes and rock stars. We have gone entertainment crazy. The movies and television have replaced the Church, God, Bible reading and Christian service.

We have become like little wooden mannequins with no feelings, no personality, no ambition and no reality. We are standing in the store front window and we are so “out there”, having lost touch with what really matters, that we have no clothes on and we don’t even know it; let alone be ashamed.

What has happened is that man becomes an image of the God or gods that he serves.

The Scriptures make it clear that there is only one true God who is infinitely above us; the only one of His kind; in a class all His own. This is called transcendence. God tells us that we are to have no other gods before Him and that we are to make no graven images of Him for He is unlike anything known unto man. He is totally above His creation.

He is a jealous God who will not tolerate any false gods or idols in our lives. He has promised to visit that type of iniquity upon our lives to the third and fourth generations.

If we think that worship is just a matter of being somewhere or that you can worship any god you want to any way that you want to, nothing could bring greater judgment upon you.

JOHN 4:24

Jesus said, "He that worships God must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth."

MATTHEW 4:4

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

I THESSALONIANS 1:9

"...how you turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God."

The question then is, what is worship? It is giving something of great value or great worth to God. It is putting His worth in our lives where it belongs, as God.

God in our minds has to be big enough to capture our thoughts, the inner longings of our soul with a passionate desire to please Him and a wanting to be accepted by Him, if worship is going to happen. Only the infinite and eternal God in His divine perfections Who is holy, righteous and just, full of wisdom, mercy and truth will do, to capture our worship. A God Who sees all things, knows all things and is in perfect control of the ultimate destiny of all things to their fulfillment in God being eternally glorified. Only the Living God, the Living and True God, Who is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and serve Him will be more than enough in worth to worship.

Worship happens when God is understood as being able and capable in power but also Who unquestionably cares, loves and has our best interests in mind. No man is going to surrender the aspirations and ambitions of this world in honor of himself apart from a divine intervention and the ability to see the worth of God. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard the things God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed enough of it to us." Christ and the Scriptures where heaven is looking better and better.

There are at least seven words which give us a description and definition of worship.

I. The English word for worship:

It is to give supreme worth to God. It is giving to God the supreme worth to which He alone is worthy. God is the most important thing to you in your life: that's real worship.

If worship is giving to God what He is worth, then He is worth all that I am, all that I've got and all that I ever will be.

We owe to God our very existence, and who we are in our uniquely designed personhood to accomplish His divine purposes; all that we could ever give back to Him.

When we think of Grace: God's Riches At Christ's Expense, freely given to undeserving sinners, then how could we not give Him our very best?

He is my Redeemer – Christ bought us with the purchase price of His precious blood and delivered us from our sin.

He is my justification – Christ kept the Law and lived a perfect life, died in our place for the forgiveness of sin, took our judgment and satisfied the righteous demands of a Holy God. He is all my righteousness and satisfied the justice of God on the behalf of guilty sinners. This is propitiation.

What was the cost to the ungodly? It was free to all who believe. This is Grace!

ROMANS 3:24-26

²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

When I think of my sin and the secrets of my detestable heart in the sight of a holy and righteous and just God, Who demands judgment upon sin and anything less than perfect holiness, I shudder with fear – and then I call to mind that I have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, with the Holy Heavenly Father, and I worship!

How could we not give God all our love? (Matthew 22, Mark 10)

How could we not live in a constant state of gratitude and eternal thanksgiving?

Hebrews 13:15

“The fruit of our lips giving praise to God.”

How could I not take every ounce of ambition, motivation and the strength of my being and offer up to God the very first fruits of my life?

If there is any honor, any goodness, any virtue, anything praiseworthy, anything lovely or of good report in my life, then let it all go to God Who gave it to me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

“⁸Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

All that I have come from God as a stewardship to be used for His glory. It all belongs to Him however He calls upon me to give it back in service.

From the dust we come and to dust we will return, but for the Grace of God that in hell would have been the end of it all.

But God, Who is rich in mercy in the love that He had toward us in Christ Jesus, even when we were dead in sins, stepped into our lives and made us alive in the Living God. He has raised us up in Christ in resurrection power and has seated us with Him in glory. God wants to be king to us through eternity.

Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

How much is God worth to us?

Revelation 4:11

¹¹Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, honor, glory and blessing.

No angel in heaven or hell has ever been given what they see fallen man has been given – the Grace of God! The only Grace that they will ever see is what they see when they look down at Godless humanity and see what God has done for us at Christ's expense when we deserved the hottest hell. They stand in amazement at God and worship Him.

I PETER 1:10-12

¹⁰Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. ¹²Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

What could we possibly ever give to God that He hasn't already given to us?

If casting our crowns in heaven at the feet of Jesus is the power of our worship, then let's start practicing now in our honor of His worth.

---Abraham offered his son, Isaac, to God. Genesis 22:1-18

---Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. Genesis 4:1-7;
Hebrews 11:4

---Hannah lent her son, Samuel, to the Lord's service. As long as he lived, he was for the Lord. I Samuel 1:27-28

---The children of Israel gave an offering unto the Lord that was so much the people had to be restrained from bringing any more. Exodus 25:2,8; 35:21; 36:4-6

---Barnabas, having land on the island of Cyprus, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the Apostles' feet. Acts 4:36-37

---Timothy, instead of seeking after his own selfish ambitions, cared for the Church and the things that had to do with Jesus Christ and the ministry. Philippians 2:19-23

---Epaphroditus almost died from working so hard for God. Not regarding his own life, but for the ministry's sake, he made up for the lack of service of others. Philippians 2:25-30

---The church at Philippi: when no church gave unto Paul, not only did they give, but they gave an odor, a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable and well pleasing to God. Philippians 4:15-18

---The churches at Macedonia, in their deep poverty, gave beyond their ability in great generosity. II Corinthians 8:1-3

---The lad gave of his 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish to Jesus, who with it fed 5,000 men plus women and children. John 6:5-22

---A woman of Bethany took an alabaster box of ointment, very costly, and poured it on the head of Jesus. That was worth 300 pence. Everyone was angry at her for such a waste of money. Jesus said, "Why bother her, she has done what she could. She hath wrought a good work." Mark 14:3-9

---Paul, the Apostle, held back nothing from God's service to His people. Acts 20:20, 21, 24

---Paul saw his ministry and his life as an offering of worship to God. II Timothy 4:5-8; Hebrews 11:32

---The poor widow cast into the treasury 2 mites while the rich men were casting in their gifts into the offering. Jesus said, "This poor widow has cast in more than they all. For the rich men gave of their abundance that probably didn't cost them much, but she gave all the living she had." Luke 21:1-4

Are we going to offer unto the Lord that which costs us nothing? Is that all God is worth to us when we think about our worship?

David said, "I will not offer burnt offerings without cost, nor offer unto the Lord that which costs me nothing. I will pay full price." I Chronicles 21:18-26; II Samuel 24:24

I CHRONICLES 21:18-26

¹⁸Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁹And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD.

²⁰And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat.

²¹And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground. ²²Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people.

²³And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. ²⁴And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost. ²⁵So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. ²⁶And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

II SAMUEL 24:24

²⁴And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

How much is God worth to us?

Jesus, though He was rich, became poor for us that we might, through His poverty, become rich. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for us at the cross that we might have the riches of salvation. II Corinthians 8:9; I Peter 1:18; 2:6; 1:3

II Corinthians 8:9

⁹For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

I Peter 1:18

¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

I Peter 2:6

⁶Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

I Peter 1:3

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Father gave His only begotten Son. John 3:16; Romans 8:32

JOHN 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

ROMANS 8:32

³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

How much is God worth to us?

God alone is worthy of our worship.

Revelations 4:11; 5:8

4:¹¹Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

5: ⁸And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

When we discover how worthy God is, we also discover how unworthy we are of His mercy and grace.

What keeps us from coming to the Lord and being saved is that we think too highly of ourselves. We think we are good and that God owes us a favor. God needs to start doing for us what we deserve.

The problem is, that He owes us nothing and that we owe Him everything. We owe a debt to God we can never repay. The wages of sin is death!

Can we pay for our sin? No, never, impossible.

But Jesus Christ did by dying for us at the cross. Who owes who what?

If we are going to come to God, we are going to have to get rid of this stupid idea of our own “worthiness” and ask God for mercy for our sin and ask God for the gift of salvation.

Ephesians 2:8,9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Do you want God to give you what you deserve or give you His grace?

How much is God worth to you??