

1. What is Worship?

Reflection: *We are about to enter our new chapel. It's a place where God's people will meet each week, as well as visitors join us. What should be uppermost in our mind as we meet in this new place?*

Presence – it's to be a place where we sense and acknowledge the presence of God, and where we commune with the Risen Lord Jesus who is present with us.

Praise – it's to be a place of praise; not entertainment, but the worship of God through praise & adoration.

Proclamation – it's to be a place where the Gospel of Christ and the Word of God are faithfully preached.

Prayer – it's to be a place of prayer, where we come before the throne of grace in Christ's name.

These were the key elements at the dedication of Solomon's temple. Consider 1 Kings 8:12-26

Vv. 12-13 – presence of God; Vv. 14-15 – praise of God;

Vv. 16-21 – proclamation of God's Word; Vv. 22-26 – prayer to God

What has changed since that time when the first temple was built in Jerusalem?

Presence: In fulfillment of prophecy (Isa 66:1-2), God doesn't dwell in a temple, but in His people through the Spirit (John 14:16-18). As we meet together, Christ's presence dwells among us (Matt 18:20).

Praise: In the light of Christ, we are blessed to be filled with more praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us in Christ (cf. Eph 1:3-12).

Proclamation: We are to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the completed revelation that God has given us; recorded for us in the New Testament (cf. Rom 1:15-16; 2 Tim 4:1-2).

Prayer: We have the awesome privilege to pray to "our Father" through Jesus' name (John 16:26-27).

Introduction: As we come into our new chapel, proclaiming God's word, praying to Him through Christ, and enjoying His presence, we will also be coming to praise His name; to worship Him. In this new Bible study series, we will be considering this most important task and activity and ministry.

What do you think is God's main purpose for people? (Psalm 95:6, 96:1-9; Rev 15:2-4)

Our main purpose is to worship Him. From this flows everything else— including evangelism and serving.

Consider God's creation. How have we been made? What's the link to worship? (Gen 1:26-27)

We have been made in God's image – different to all other creatures. Thus, we are able to know and communicate with God. Unlike any other creature, we have been made different to worship God.

Consider the saving work of God in Christ. What have we been saved for? (1 Peter 2:9-10)

We have been saved to "declare His praises"; in other words, we have been saved to worship God. We have not just been saved so that we may have our sins forgiven and go to heaven. It's much more.

Consider our eternal destiny. What will be doing in glory? (Rev 7:9-17)

God's eternal plan is that we may serve and worship Him forever - worship is our primary activity in glory.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (a series of questions and answers written in 1647), has as its first question: "What is the chief end [purpose] of man?" What answer is given, and what does this mean?

The answer given is: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever". In other words, our chief purpose is to worship God – the work of Creation and the work of Christ are to this end.

What is worship?

What comes to mind when you think of worship? What is worship? [discuss]

We often think worship is singing songs to God at church. However, worship is much more than that.

To understand more fully what worship is, consider the two NT Greek words used for "worship".

The first is "proskuneo". What does this word mean? (cf. Matt 2:11; 1 Cor 14:24-25; Rev 4:9-11)

Worship is falling down/bowing down before God. *proskuneo* literally means "bow down to kiss". It's about humbling ourselves before God, revering and fearing Him, and honouring and adoring Him.

The other NT Greek word used for worship is "latreuo". What do you learn from its use in Acts 24:11-14 (v.11 uses the word proskuneo, v.14 uses the word latreuo) and in Rom 12:1?

Worship is directly connected to service for God, and it indeed is called worship in and of itself.

From the two main Greek words used for worship in the New Testament, what is true worship?

True worship is having a humble and reverent heart toward God, and serving Him according to His will.

Besides singing songs of praise to God, what else can we call worship? [Discuss]

Praying (Matt 6:9); cleaning the chapel for His glory; sharing Jesus; using our spiritual gifts to bless.

What do we learn from 1 Cor 10:31 in regard to worship?

Everything we do ought to be done as worship, even doing such common things as eating and drinking.

Summary: We were made for worship; saved for worship. Our chief purpose is to worship God.

2. What's True Worship?

Review: *Why have we been made by God and saved by Christ (1 Pet 2:9)? To worship/proclaim God*
How are we to worship God (Rev 4:8-11; Rom 12:1)? We are to worship Him by two ways:
 humbly revering Him (bowing before Him) and serving Him through giving ourselves as a living sacrifice.

Old Testament Worship

In the OT, God chose Israel to be His people. What were they to do? (Exod 3:12; Deut 6:10-13)

They were to worship Him and to serve Him only.

God established the tabernacle/temple amongst His people. Why? (Exod 29:44-46; Deut 12:8-12)

He wanted to dwell with His people, and to establish a place where people could come and worship Him.

But what happened to Israel in regard to worship? (Isa 2:8; Isa 29:13-14)

Israel did not worship God with their hearts, and they ended up worshipping and serving other gods.

New Testament Worship

In John 4:19-24, while speaking to a woman from Samaria, Jesus gave us some essential teaching on worship, after centuries of malpractice. Firstly, worship of God would change. In what way? (v.21)
 No longer would we worship God just in certain places; eg, the temple in Jerusalem.

Another change is mentioned in v.21. Who would be worshipped? What's significant about this?

Jesus talks about us worshipping the "Father"; He doesn't use the term God. This is because worship would change. Through Jesus, we would be made right with God and know God personally as our loving Father. We would worship Him, not as a subject of the King, but as a son/daughter of the King. Wow!

What do you think Jesus is emphasising about worship in v.22?

Much of what we call worship is not right. It's simply what man has invented, rather than what God has intended. People often worship God blindly, not knowing or comprehending who He is and how we are to worship Him. God's dealings with the Jews revealed true worship, but God's salvation in Christ would particularly put things right in regard to worship – this is what Jesus goes on to speak about.

What does Jesus say constitutes true worship in v.23?

True worship is when we worship the Father in spirit and truth. Worship is not about getting the externals right. It's not about temples, rituals, ceremonies, or whether we are a Jew, Samaritan or Gentile.

What does it mean to worship the Father in spirit?

The word "spirit" is not referring to the Holy Spirit, but rather to how we are to worship God with our human spirit; ie, we are to worship God with our heart and soul. God desires heart worship, not lip service. He is opposed to cold, formal, man-made worship (cf. Matt 15:7-9).

How can we worship the Father 'in spirit' when our spirit is dead? (cf. Eph 2:1; Phil 3:3)

Although Jesus calls us to worship the Father in "spirit", we will never be able to unless we have God's Spirit dwelling in us. We are spiritually dead until we put our faith in Christ and are born from above (John 3:3). We are enabled to worship God with our spirit, when God's Spirit comes to dwell in us and fill us.

What does it mean to worship the Father in truth?

We are to worship God according to what He has revealed about Himself. The Bible, first and foremost, is the revelation of God. Thus, we must worship God according to what the Bible says; not what we think.

How has Christ affected our worship of God in truth? (cf. John 1:4-9, 18)

At best, the Old Testament is the "shadow", but Christ is the "substance". In Christ, we see God fully and clearly (John 1:18; 14:9), and through His death and resurrection we behold God's heart for us. Only in Jesus do we have the full truth about our God so that we can worship Him fully.

Going back to the beginning of v.23 in John 4, when would (or did) true worship begin?

It began with Jesus' ministry, for through Him we see God and are made right with God (cf. John 14:6).

What impact does Jesus' words have on you that the Father seeks true worshippers? (v.23b)

It is such an amazing truth that our awesome God, who is absolutely self-sufficient, should seek and desire true worshippers. On our part, it should make us want to arise and be those worshippers He seeks.

What do we learn in v.24 about God and about worship?

God is spirit; He is unlike man-made deities. He cannot be contained in a temple; He is not localised but everywhere. We are not to worship Him as people worship other gods. The living God must be worshipped in spirit (by His Spirit), and in truth; not by lip service, nor according to the traditions of men.

Summary: God is spirit. He seeks worshippers. Worship Him in spirit and truth through Christ.

3. Do We Truly Worship?

Review: *What is true worship according to Jesus? (John 4:23-24)* It's when we worship God as our Father, worshipping with our spirit (heart), which has been made alive through God's Spirit, and according to the truth that has been revealed to us through God's Word.

What does the Father seek? How should this affect us? The Father seeks true worshippers. We, as His children, should long to fulfil His desire by being true worshippers of Him through Christ.

Worship and the World

We were made by God to worship, but what do we find most people doing? (Rom 1:18-25)

Many worship, but they worship everything else but the true and living God. They worship other gods, or the products of their hands. In our culture, people worship money, status, achievements and other things.

What does wrong worship result in? (Rom 1:26-32)

People become perverted and polluted as they live for their idols and passions, and life becomes more dysfunctional and damaged. Such wrong worship puts us on a collision course with God's just wrath.

Worship and Christians

Why should Christians be different to the world, worshipping God alone? (Rom 3:21-26; 5:1-11)

We have been justified (made right with God) by God's grace and Christ's sacrifice, and through faith in Jesus Christ. As a result, we are at peace with God (Rom 5:1), are loved by God (Rom 5:8), and now have a new heart to worship and rejoice in God (Rom 5:11).

In the light of what God has done for us in Christ, how should we be? (Rom 11:33 – 12:1)

We should be full of praise for our God's mercy and grace in Christ. We also should be giving ourselves to His service continually as a living sacrifice – this is worship.

Christians and True Worship

Christians ought to be good worshipers of God, but often we are not. Why? [Discuss]

We get caught up with duty rather than devotion; we're more concerned about ourselves than God's glory.

Consider the worshipful act of prayer: After a morning time with the Lord many of us could conclude our prayer with "See you later" instead of "Amen", for we don't think about Him for the rest of the day. We may not even pray until the close of the day (if we have enough energy!). Why is this?

We often get distracted with the things of life, or are kept busy with the demands of life, so that we fail to reflect on and respond to God's glory, goodness and grace. As a result we fail to be worshippers.

Tozer, in his book "Whatever Happened to Worship" wrote "You are not worshipping God as you should if you have departmentalized your life so that some areas worship and other parts do not worship." What was he getting at?

Worship is not just something you do at set times of the week, such as at a church service. Worship is to be done any time – at work, at play, driving the car, etc. It's to be our primary activity in all areas of life.

How can we be better worshippers? (cf. the example of others in Dan 6:10 and Psalm 1:1-2)

Daniel prayed three times a day; the psalmist meditated on God's word day and night (at least twice).

What we need to do is to build into our every day, regular times when we read God's word and pray to Him. Such "regular" contact will help us walk with God better, and make us better worshippers of Him.

NB: Like snorkelling, where we need to surface and breathe in "air", we need to surface regularly from our busy lives and "breathe in our God" through the Word and prayer, and then worship Him.

According to Psalm 46:10, what must we learn to do? Why?

We must learn to be still, so that we might know God. Unless we do this, and build in "still" times during our day, the things of life will crowd out our God from our minds, and we'll not be able to worship Him.

Consider: Some of the psalms have the word "selah" in them (eg, Psalm 3). It means to pause and reflect. This practice is what we need to bring into our lives so that we can pause, reflect on God & worship Him.

Read 1 Thess 5:16-18. According to this passage, how can we be better worshippers?

We can be better worshippers if we would, on a continual basis, rejoice, pray and give thanks; it's God's will.

When we think of 1 Thess 5:16-18, what do we see in Acts 16:16-34?

Paul and Silas lived out 1 Thess 5:16-18, and thus their rejoicing, praying and giving thanks caused worship to arise to God, even though they had been beaten and cast into a prison. Consider also how through worship, the prisoners were touched, and the Philippian jailer and his family were saved. Wow!

Summary: We would worship better, and even be true worshippers, if we would walk with God daily and have "be still" times, reflecting on and rejoicing in our most glorious God.

4. Worship! How Great is our God!

Review: *What are some of the reasons why we don't worship God as we ought? (Psalm 46:10)*

We don't take time during our busy daily schedule to stop and pause, and worship and praise God.

How can 1 Thess 5:16-18 help us be better worshippers of God?

Maintaining a rejoicing and thankful attitude to God, and praying always, will lead to continual worship.

A deficient view of God hinders worship

Besides the distractions around us, the demands of life, and the danger of departmentalising our life where we only worship at set times, what else can hinder worship? (contrast Psa 50:21 with 104:1)

We fail to worship God as we ought because we have a deficient or low view of God. He is not like us.

What are some of the reasons for us having a low view of God? (Mark 4:35-41; esp. v.38b)

We allow the circumstances of life to cause us to question God's greatness and goodness (“don't you care”).

What can be other reasons for us having a deficient view of God? (cf. Jesus' words in John 4:23)

The Bible reveals the truth about God – indeed, the Bible is primarily the revelation of God. If we fail to read our Bibles regularly or if we read it poorly (eg, just looking for “the do's and the do not's”, rather than seeing God), then we will fail to develop a right and true view of God that will help us worship Him.

Consider Jer 29:13. What should we be doing? What are the consequences if we don't do this?

We should be seeking God, and God's promise is that we will find Him. In contrast, when we don't seek Him, we don't get to know Him, and then we will not be worshipping God, but disregarding Him.

Maintaining a high view of God

In Job 1:18-21 what do we find Job doing after great loss. Why was this possible?

Job fell down and worshipped God, praising His name, because he had a high view of God. He knew God sat on the throne and is sovereign, no matter what happens, and that He is to be worshipped for that.

In Job chapters 3-37, Job's worship of God deteriorates. Consider what he says about God in Job 19:6-12 and 30:20-21. Why is he not saying “may the name of the Lord be praised”, as in Job 1:21?

Job had been affected by his circumstances. His so-called friends judged and condemned him, and he was suffering excruciating pain. Through his experiences, Job allowed his high view of God to be eroded, and thought that God had been unjust to him – this lower view of God led him to not worship as previously.

In Job 38 & 39, God speaks to Job. What does God do? (Job 38:1-11)

God lifts Job's eyes upward, that he might have his view of God restored. Indeed, Job comes to see God more clearly, and is left humble and in awe of God (Job 42:1-6) – which is essential for true worship.

How great is our God?

We all have a lower view of God than we realise. Like Job, we need to have our eyes constantly lifted higher. Consider the following passages in the Bible, and how they might help us worship God.

Isa 6:1-4	God sits on the throne; He's the King; He's so holy - like no other. Creation also should cause us to respond in worship for it declares His glory.
Isa 40:12-26	God is so “big”; the nations are nothing before Him, and He rules over all things.
Psalms 145:1-13	God is so great; far greater than we can ever comprehend.
Psalms 103:1-22	God is so good; satisfying us with good things. He is also so merciful and gracious, not treating us as our sins deserve.
Col 1:15-20	Christ Jesus is so great; He is our Creator and King. Through His death and the shedding of His blood, He has made us right with God.
1 Cor 1:26-31	God has saved us through Christ, despite who we might be – it is His doing. He is worthy of all praise, and He is to be our boast.
Titus 3:4-7	God has saved us through Jesus and the work of the Spirit – not by our works. God has given us a glorious hope through Christ.

Jesus revealed God to us. He is God, and He is exactly the same as the Father (Heb 1:1-3). What things do we see in Jesus that show us the greatness of God and why He is to be worshipped?

Jesus had power over nature, demons, sickness, death, and even the power to forgive sin. He was absolutely pure and righteous. He also had such compassion for us rebels, and even gave up His life for us to save us. What a God! Full of power, full of righteousness, full of love; indeed, worthy of all worship (cf. the worship of Jesus in Rev 5:9-14, together with the Father being worshipped).

Summary: How well we worship God is directly related to how high our view of Him is.

5. Worship in Church

Review: *What helps us worship God as we ought? (Psalm 95:1-3; Rom 5:6-11)*

We worship God best when we have a biblically right view of Him, and from the Scriptures, a high view of Him. If we have a lowly view of Him, we will end up with a "lowly" worship of Him.

What things can cause us to have a low view of God our Father and Christ His Son? (cf. Mk 4:38)

We can allow the circumstances of life to lower our view of God; especially when we can't understand what's happening. We can also be poor readers of the Word, and therefore fail to see our God's greatness. Consider Bob Kauflin's words "The better we know God through His Word, the more genuine our worship will be. In fact, the moment we veer from what is true about God, we are engaging in idolatry."

Church and Worship

What's church meant to be all about? (cf. what the first church was devoted to in Acts 2:40-42)

Church is where we regularly meet together (Heb 10:24-25) as believers and followers of Christ, and where we are devoted to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

What do you understand the four activities mentioned in Acts 2:42 to be about?

The "apostles' teaching" means being devoted to the reading and preaching of God's Word (especially the New Testament that the apostles' wrote, and the Old Testament in the light of the apostles' teaching). "Fellowship" is encouraging each other in the faith. "Breaking bread" is remembering Jesus' death at communion. "Praying" is expressing our praise to God and our dependence on God in Jesus' name.

What things are surprisingly not mentioned in Acts 2:42, and yet they are a big part of modern "church"? Why are they not mentioned?

What is not mentioned is singing worship songs, or collecting the offering, or getting a "spiritual lift", etc. What we must understand is that these flow out of the four primary activities in Acts 2:42.

What else do we glean about the New Testament church from Acts 2:43-47?

The people had a sense of awe because of the presence and power of the awesome God they had come to personally know through Christ; the people loved to meet together regularly and to help each other out practically; the people were filled with gladness, and they praised God as a result. This was "church".

When we think of "church", what part of "church" is worship? [discuss]

Worship is not just the first part of most services where we sing worship songs to God. Worship is the entire service. It's reading God's Word or listening to a sermon, or having fellowship and encouraging a brother or sister even before or after the service. It's breaking bread and remembering Jesus' death, and praying. It's also giving an offering, serving each other on the roster, and singing songs to God.

Even though all we do in church can be worship, when is it not worship? (Matt 15:7-9)

What we do in church is not worship when our hearts and minds are not engaged, and we are just going through the motions, or we are not reverent before God, and responsive to Him. Eg: dwelling on other things rather than on what God is saying through a sermon; thinking about what a brother or sister did to you while the offering is collected; reading the church notices rather than thinking of Jesus at communion.

Singing and Worship

We love to sing in church, and yet there is no direct reference to singing in Acts 2:40-47, nor in any other part of the book of Acts, except for Acts 16:25. Should we then sing songs in church?

Absolutely! If Paul and Silas sang hymns of praise to God in a dungeon, it implies that they were accustomed to singing praises elsewhere; and what better place than in the company of other Christians; at church. The phrase "praising God" in Acts 2:47 probably refers to Christians singing praises to God,

Although public singing in our society is rare, we as God's people have been singing for many centuries. Why is that? (Exod 15:1-2; 1 Chron 16:4-9; Psa 100; Isa 12:1-6; Heb 13:15)

We have been singing because we rejoice in who our God is and what He has done for us; especially in the light of what Jesus has done for us. Our singing is the overflow of reverent joy (Psa 2:11).

Although we may automatically think that all singing in church is worship, when is it not worship?

It's not worship when we are just mouthing words without thinking about what we are singing; when we are preoccupied with the speed of the song (too fast, too slow) or whether we like this song or not (too old, too modern). In order to worship God in song, we must meditate on and mean the words we sing.

When it comes to church and singing, what do we learn from Psalm 19:14 & Eph 5:19-20?

As we sing, the meditations of our heart are to be pleasing to God, filled with joy and thankfulness.

Summary: "Church" will only be worship when our hearts and minds are engaged with God.

6. Singing: What's all the Fuss?

Review: *What are to be the four main aspects in a church service? (Acts 2:42)* Reading/preaching from the Bible (apostles' teaching), fellowship in Christ's name, remembering Jesus at communion, and prayer.

What should we call worship at church, and when is it worship? Everything should be worship (ie, giving an offering, praying, singing), but it's only worship if we are engaged with God (Psa 19:14).

What should we sing?

Singing songs to God in church is to be worship; together with everything else we do (cf. Rom 12:1). But when it comes to what we should sing, there can be controversy and division. Why is this?

Singing, and church music and worship styles, is highly emotive. We have strong personal preferences. As a result, we can "push" for certain songs and worship styles, and hurt other believers in the process.

What three points does Paul make in Col 3:16 in regard to what we should sing in church?

1. We should sing songs that "teach and admonish" (ie, not songs for entertainment; but for edification)
2. We should sing a variety of songs – "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs"; not just one style.
3. We should sing songs that express our thankfulness of God and that praise Him.

How should Col 3:16 affect the way we view the song choice at a Sunday morning service?

We should not be considering whether our favourite songs have been chosen, but whether they teach and edify according to God's Word, are a balanced mix, and express thanks to God and praise to Him.

Some churches and/or worship leaders just pick all the latest new songs or just the old hymns.

Based on Col 3:16, and the mix of ages in most churches, what is the wise thing to do?

We should have a good mix of songs that comes from our rich Christian heritage. Generally, older people love the older hymns and younger people love the newer songs. We should maintain balance.

It may be quite a surprise to see "church singing" in Col 3:16 equated with "teaching and admonishing". What does Paul mean by his emphasis?

We often equate church singing to praising God. It is, but even in our praise, we are to make sure that our songs teach accurately who God is and what He has done - worshipping in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

What things will stop disharmony in the area of song choice and worship styles? (cf. Col 3:15-16)

When we let the peace of Christ rule our hearts, then we will be at peace with God and each other, and we won't be seeking to "push" our worship style at the expense of others. Also, when we let Christ's Word dwell richly in us, we will be more concerned about what songs lift up God, rather than what suits "me".

How should we sing?

How should we sing according to Col 3:15-17 and Eph 5:18-20? (cf. also 1 Thess 5:18)

We should sing with thankfulness to God. The psalms are full of this (Psa 100). In contrast to the OT, we should be even more thankful in the light of what God has done for us in Christ (cf. Col 1:3, 12-14).

What else do we learn from Eph 5:18-20 in regard to singing?

We should be "making music" in our hearts to the Lord. True praise is therefore heartfelt. It's also the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit (v.18), who produces joy in our hearts (cf. 1 Peter 1:6-9).

Many times we sing songs that focus on God's blessings to us in Christ. Is this enough? (cf. Eph 1:3)

It's right and good to praise God for His blessings. However, we ought to praise God for who He is; not just for what He gives us. We ought to think of the Giver, not just the gifts; the hand, not just the handouts.

Who do we sing to?

In Eph 5:19 who does it say we sing to? What does this imply about the songs we sing?

We often think that our singing is just to God, but we also sing to each other (Eph 5:19a). This is why we can "teach and admonish" (Col 3:16) through song. Church songs, then, should not be all about "me and my relationship with God", but about "us and our relationship with God".

Why do we sing?

Why do we sing at church? Is it to draw closer to God or for another reason?

We do not just sing to draw closer to God. Though singing may make us feel nearer to Him, His nearness is through Christ alone, and not through song (otherwise church singing becomes an idol). We sing in response to who our God is and for the many wonderful blessings we have in Christ. We sing for joy.

Summary: Church singing is to teach and edify, and to be full of joy and thanks to God through Christ.

7. What Does Worship Look Like in Heaven?

Review: According to Col 3:16, what do we learn about church singing? The songs we sing should help teach us Christ's Word and build us up in the faith, and be full of praise and thankfulness to our God.

According to Eph 5:18-20, what else do we learn about church singing? Our singing should be heartfelt praise (ie, "making music in your heart"). This comes when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Worship in Heaven

Discuss: "I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven." (Tozer) Worship of God is the eternal occupation of God's children and God's angelic beings. If we're not enjoying worship now, we are not only "not ready" for heaven; it's likely we are not going to heaven.

In heaven, will we just be singing all the time? (cf. Rev 5:9-10; 7:15; 14:1-3; 15:1-4; 22:3) We will be singing; even the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. But we will also be ministering (as priests) before God, serving Him, and reigning with Christ. Remember: worship is not just about singing.

Worshipping God in Heaven

In Rev 4:1-11, God the Father is worshipped. Why is He worshipped?

He is worshipped for it is He who sits on the throne (v.2); He is beautiful beyond description (v.3); He is awesome and powerful (v.5); He is holy, like no other (v.8); He is eternal (vv.8-10); He is Creator (v.11).

The word "throne" occurs ten times in Rev 4, and the phrase "sits (sitting) on the throne" occurs three times. Why do you think these two words are emphasised?

It is God the Father who alone is the King of heaven and earth, and He rules over all things. He has the right to rule over all things for He made all things. His rule is secure, and so He sits.

How is God the Father worshipped? (Rev 4:8-11)

He is constantly adored by the four living creatures, and the twenty four elders humbly and reverently fall down before Him and cast their crowns before Him. To Him is given unending glory, honour, and thanks.

In Rev 5:1-7, we are introduced to God's Son Jesus in John's vision. What do we learn about Him? Only Jesus is worthy to approach the Father. He is the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (v.5); ie, the King that God has appointed over His people. He is the Lamb (v.6); ie, God's Lamb (John 1:29) who was sacrificed for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins. He is in the centre of the throne room, indicating He is above all others except the Father (cf. Phil 2:9-11); He is all powerful ("seven horns" means perfect in strength); He is all-seeing ("seven eyes" means perfect sight).

Consider Rev 5:8. What is happening? What does this imply?

Jesus, Himself, is worshipped, and by the same angelic beings that worship the Father. This is such an irrefutable affirmation that Jesus is also divine, and worthy of all worship (cf. John 1:1).

What has Jesus' salvation accomplished for us? (Rev 5:9-10)

Jesus has made us rebels to be priests and worshippers of God. Consider Tozer's quote: "All that Christ has done for us in the past and all that He is doing now leads to this one end - to worship and serve God."

Why is Jesus primarily worshipped in Rev 5:9-12?

Even though He is divine like the Father, He is particularly worshipped for being the "Lamb slain". All heaven worships Him who died for us so that we could be "purchased" (saved) for God.

Twenty-six times in the book of Revelation, Jesus is called the "Lamb". He is worshipped as the "Lamb". He even bears in His glorified body the wounds of the cross (John 20:27; Rev 5:6). Why?

The most staggering thing about Jesus is that God's eternal Son, co-creator with the Father (Heb 1:2), bore our sins and died on the cross. We are never to forget this. "Worthy is the Lamb" is our cry!

In Rev 5:13-14, we see the climax to the worship of God. What happens?

God the Father and Jesus the Son are worshipped together. Both are to be worshipped for all eternity.

The book of Revelation (especially Rev 4 & 5) is a window into heaven where we see how worship will be in heaven. What can we learn from this in regard to how we should worship God here on earth?

We are to worship both God the Father and Jesus the Son. The Holy Spirit is not mentioned, for He is our worship leader (Phil 3:3). We are to worship humbly and reverently, giving all praise and thanks to God.

What do we learn from Rev 19:9-10 and 22:8-9?

Only God is to be worshipped – no other creature, no matter how great, is to be worshipped, but God alone.

Summary: Worship God alone – the Father and the Son – with reverence and thankfulness.