

Sunday, January 26, 2014

Welcome – Greg Snow

What Is Worship – *Psalm 29:2 (Source: John MacArthur)*

Hear the word of the Lord:

Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Worship. What is worship? Worship is "honor paid to a superior being." It means "to give honor, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to a superior being. Worship is giving - giving honor and respect to God. That is why we, as Christians, have gathered here today. We don't gather to give respect to the preacher or anyone else, we gather to give honor to God. The sermon and the music are just to be the stimuli that create the desire in our hearts to honor Him.

If you attend church for what you can get, you've missed it! When we gather together to worship the Lord, our focus is to be on giving to Him, not getting from Him. Worship is a consuming desire to give to God, and it involves the giving of ourselves, our heart attitudes, and our possessions.

This morning, let's take a few moments in silent prayer in order that we may prepare our hearts for worship, all the while turning our attention and focus on our holy God. May the King of heaven fill us with His mercy and purifying love and assure us of His presence and glory. Let's pray.

Call to Worship – *Psalm 92:1-2; 95:1-2*

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,

to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Come, join me as we sing for joy to the LORD!

Song of Worship – *Brethren We Have Met To Worship*

Worthy Is the Lamb

Let us continue to worship and join our voices as we praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death. We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour; because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Let us praise him by saying:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship this hour and forever and ever.

Song of Praise – Before the Throne of God Above

Confession of Sin & Prayer

Our God longs for honesty and holiness within the promise-based relationship He has established with us in Christ. In a culture that avoids talk of sin and deserved guilt, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God. Just as a marriage cannot flourish without honest confession, so our marriage-like relationship with God cannot flourish unless we freely and honestly confess our sins before God. I encourage you to spend the next few moments in silent prayer, confessing your sins and asking God to cleanse your wicked heart so that He may be glorified in all we say and do.

Let's pray.

Assurance of Salvation – 1 Peter 2:24

Hear these words of assurance found in 1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Songs of Praise – The Old Rugged Cross/I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Offering - “*You cannot repent too soon, because you do not know how soon it may be too late.*” Thomas Fuller

This Man Receiveth Sinners – Luke 15:1-2 (Source: Charles Spurgeon/J.C. Ryle)

Hear the word of God, found in Luke 15, Verses 1 & 2:

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Observe the condescension of this fact. This Man, who towers above all other men, holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners - this Man receiveth sinners. This Man, who is no other than the eternal God, before whom angels veil their faces - this Man receiveth sinners. It needs an angel's tongue to describe such a mighty stoop of love. That any of us should be willing to seek after the lost is nothing wonderful - they are of our own race; but that he, the offended God, against whom 'the transgression has been committed, should take upon himself the form of a servant, and bear the sin of many, and should then be willing to receive the vilest of the vile, this is marvelous.

"This Man receiveth sinners"; not, however, that they may remain sinners, but he receives them that he may pardon their sins, justify their persons, cleanse their hearts by his purifying word, preserve their souls by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, and enable them to serve him, to show forth his praise, and to have communion with him. Into his heart's love he receives sinners, takes them from the dunghill, and wears them as jewels in his crown; plucks them as brands from the burning, and preserves them as costly monuments of his mercy. None are so precious in Jesus' sight as the sinners for whom he died.

When Jesus receives sinners, he has not some out-of-doors reception place, no casual ward where he charitably entertains them as men do passing beggars, but he opens the golden gates of his royal heart, and receives the sinner right into himself-yea, he admits the humble penitent into personal union and makes him a member of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. There was never such a reception as this! This fact is still most sure this evening, he is still receiving sinners.

Let us repent and believe in Christ. Let us encourage others to repent. Let us hold the door wide open to the very chief of sinners. Never will that word fail, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9.)

Songs of Worship – *Christ Is Able/In the Cross*

Message – "A Question of Authority"

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:23-32

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *O Church Arise*

Benediction