

April 12, 2015
The Heart of Worship
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Sermon Notes

"The Lamb is worthy - the Lamb who was slain. He is worthy to receive the power, and the riches, and the wisdom, and the strength, and the honor, and the glory, and the blessing." In these beautiful words from Revelation 5:12-13, we see a powerful example of worship. These inspired words are filled with wonder as they describe the reality of Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches us how to worship and lift up the name of God so our lives can be changed through it.

READ John 4:23

We see that God is the one who seeks and draws us into worship. Worship is our human response to God's divine initiative.

When we think of worship, some people think of singing, attending church services or praying. These are certainly beautiful expressions of worship, but it goes beyond that.

Worship is what our lives ought to be - a dynamic, everlasting celebration of God. Our spiritual service of worship is ultimately giving ourselves to Him gladly and sacrificially with each passing day - it is a lifestyle. This is our privilege, our purpose and our fulfillment.

Please share with the group what worship means to you.

READ Romans 12: 1-2

We just read that we ought to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices." What do you understand that to mean?

What does verse 2 of this passage add to your understanding of true worship?

In your own words, what is the difference between attending worship and living in worship?

How does regular fellowship with other believers help you worship God with new and fresh eagerness?

How can worshipping Jesus transform the lives of people around us? Have you seen any of that kind of change in the people with whom you have had contact?

As we know, there are many different ways, forms and traditions that may aid us in worshipping God. The New Testament does not tell us to follow a particular form for worship, other than to worship in spirit and truth.

The forms Christians use today are not the worship, they simply help lead us into the worship. How do you see this happening in your congregation and in your personal worship?

READ Psalm 150 and answer the following four questions:

1. Who are we to praise?
2. Where are we to praise him?
3. Why are we to praise him?
4. How are we to praise him?

What are some things or people we are sometimes tempted to worship? How can you avoid these temptations?

What do you think it means to worship God in the "heavens?"

Read through the list of instruments in this Psalm. What kind of worship do you think they describe?

Why do you think the author finished this list by saying, "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."?

In your estimation, how well do you and those you know rise to the challenge?