**Revelation 4-5**

Introduction

I. Revelation 4-5 gives us access to an eternal worship service always going on in heaven

Whenever we have a worship service here on earth we are joining and entering into a service that is already in progress

II. The worshippers in ch. 4-5 teach us about true worship by modeling it themselves

The Passage

I. What worship says: “worthy” (4:11, 5:9, 5:12)

A. Worship is acknowledging God’s “worth” and value

Worship = Fixing our minds on the worth of God

B. Therefore, we can’t worship God unless we understand who he is

1. If we are going to say he is “worthy” we have to understand why he is worthy: who he is and what he’s done

2. Chapter 4 tells us why God the Father is worthy: he is the creator and sustainer of all things (4:11)

3. Chapter 5 tells us why God the Son is worthy: he was willing to sacrifice his own life to save a people for God (5:9-10)

4. Considered together, ch. 4 and 5 present an incredibly worthy God

=Powerful, infinite, holy yet also sacrificial, loving, and intimate

II. How worship says it: singing (5:9, 5:12)

A. Worship = not just fixing our minds on the worth of God, but treasuring in our hearts the worth of God

B. God regularly commands his people to sing to him. While singing/music adds no new intellectual information or meaning, music stirs our hearts and moves us emotionally, and God wants his people to be moved emotionally by his greatness.

1. There’s no such thing as being too emotional in worship (can you ever be too grateful for God’s grace or too in wonder of his power?). The only danger is when emotions get disconnected from the appropriate object of worship (God)

2. God wired us to be emotional and physically expressive beings (just consider watching a close football game), and so it’s very fitting that we would experience those emotions in the context of worship

III. What worship does: bows down and lays our crowns down (4:10, 5:14)

A. This encourages different physical postures during worship

B. At a deeper level, this is reflective of a heart posture before God

1. To get off your throne and bow down is to say: “God, before your authority, I surrender any apparent authority I may have to you.”

2. To lay your crown at the foot of God’s throne is to say: “God, before your honor, I surrender any apparent honor or recognition I may have or want.”

3. So these are postures that display a heart of humility and surrender to God

C. Worship is not just acknowledging God’s worth in our minds, or feeling his worth in our hearts, but it is also surrendering to his worth in our lives. Worship is “bowing all of who we are before all of who God is.” (see Romans 12:1-2)

-This involves surrendering control of our lives over to God and living in ways that bring him (rather than us) recognition and praise

Conclusion

I. Every human being is a worshipper. The question is never, “will we worship?” but rather “what will we worship?”

II. When we worship something other than God, our perspective is off and everything is out of whack, but when we worship God at the center, everything else is put in its proper place.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Worship, at the most basic level, is acknowledging the worth and greatness of God. What specifically about God have you been learning or appreciating lately (through Revelation or otherwise) that leads you to want to worship him?

2. What did you think about the comment made on Sunday: “I don’t think it’s possible to be too emotional in the context of worship.” Do you agree or not?

3. Consider worship as “bowing all of who we are before all of who God is.” As you consider surrendering your life to God as an act of worship, is there a specific area of your life right now that you are hoping to surrender to God in a deeper way?