

Worship Him! (Easter 2021)

It's Easter! Resurrection Sunday. He is risen. And what a difference a year makes (**Photo**). I never want to do that again, but I thank God for using it, and sustaining us, and even *blessing* us; as a church. From our health and finances, to decisions for Christ, to the new children's wing. It's been extraordinary. God is doing a work I didn't expect.

And the absolute best thing we can possibly do, is worship him. So let's turn in our Bibles to John 10:17-18, and get at it. (**Outline**) John 10 is one of *several* Scriptures we'll look at this morning, as we continue to trace the journey of Jesus from Palm Sunday, to Good Friday, and now Easter. Events for which we should praise him, mourn him, and worship him.

That's the only *appropriate* response to Easter. Worship. Whether in the form of singing, celebration, or surrender. We ought to worship him. That's the point of all this. That we would focus our mind's attention, our heart's affection, and our will's submission on *Jesus*.

And express it. Because worship isn't worship unless you do.

Express your heart-felt adoration, affection, and devotion to Jesus.

That's worship. The *expression* of those things.

Like the *adoration* of Ps 104:1 – *Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great!* It's an expression of adoration.

And Ps 18:1 is a great example of *affection*. *I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.* That's affection. Not the syrupy, sappy kind; like you're in *love* with Jesus. But the heartfelt kind, that acknowledges you can't do without him. You need him and love him.

And then there's the expression of *devotion* in worship. Like the Apostle Peter said, "*Lord, I will lay down my life for you.*" (Jn 13:37) Whatever the cost, whatever the hardship, whatever the path, I'm in. All in. Devoted. And expressing it, along with adoration and affection, is worship.

➤ What it's not, is just singing. Certainly singing is a *part* of worship, *one* way to worship. But it's not the whole. Not for Jesus. We ought to worship him in our heart and with our lives as well. Heart, mouth, *and* life. All three. The way we *live* ought to be one continuous expression of our adoration, affection, and devotion to Jesus.

In other words, worshipping Jesus is a whole *life* thing. It's not just a Sunday thing, and it's certainly not just an Easter thing. It's a life thing. A whole-life, life-long expression of adoration, affection, and devotion.

➤ And about now, I hope you're asking why. "*Why* should I worship Jesus like that? Or worship him at all?" Glad you asked. 4 reasons. First . . .

He conquered death (Jn 10:17-18)

Worship him because he conquered death. He rose from the grave. He rose again. No small thing in and of itself, and even bigger because he *said* he would. **He said he would do it.** He said he would rise again.

Like in John 2. "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" . . . speaking about the temple of his body." (Jn 2:19,21)

Or right here in John 10:17.

For this reason the Father loves me [Jesus said], because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (ESV) To do it.

I lay it down *that I may take it up again.* He not only *conquered* death, but *said* he would.

And **the Gospels show it.** Like the Angel's comment in Luke 24:6. *He is not here, but has risen.* Or Mark 16:6 – *He has risen . . . See the place where they laid him.* Not to mention the multiple interactions he had, recorded *after* that. The Gospel's bear witness to his victory over death.

And **history confirms it.** Look at what the Apostle Paul says in **1 Cor 15**, 24 years later.

[3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [It's history.] [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive [in Paul's day; as he was writing], though some have fallen asleep [died]. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. [8] Last of all, as to one untimely born [born again, spiritually], he appeared also to me [Paul says]. (1 Cor 15:3-7)

Hundreds of people saw that he conquered death. History confirms it.****

What's more, **the Apostle's preached it.** They *preached* Jesus' victory over death. Like Peter in Acts 2:24 – *God raised him up, losing the pangs of death* [the pain and suffering], *because it was not possible for him to be held by it* [held by death]. . . . *This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses* (32). Over and over again, explicitly and repeatedly, the Apostles preached the victory of Jesus over death.

➤ But it's not just the historical *fact* that matters, it's that he overcame the *penalty* for our sin when he conquered death. Which is a big deal, because the wages of sin is *death* the Bible says (Rom 6:23). Not just physical death, but eternal death; separation from God and others in the torment of hell.

And contrary to popular opinion, is not going to be a party. It's dark, lonely, miserable, and maddening. So much so that people weep and gnash their teeth the Bible says.

But thank God, Jesus *paid* it all, and *overcame* it all. So that *through* him, in a *relationship* with him, we too can overcome death. And for that, we ought to worship him.

Second, worship him because . . .

He offers life (Jn 10:10)

He conquered death and he offers life. New life, full life, eternal life, and resurrection life.

By virtue of his resurrection, Jesus offers us **new life**. Romans 6:4 says that we are saved, *in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead . . . we too might walk in newness of life.* Just as he gained new life, we too get new life.

If anyone is in Christ [in relationship with him], he is a new creation [the Bible says]. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Cor 5:17). Jesus deserves our worship because he offers us new life.

And, **full life**. Life to the full. Look at v10. Jesus says:

The thief [referring to Satan and those who do his bidding] comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they [my followers] may have life and have it abundantly. Or, to the full.

Jesus didn't die and rise again so that we would live depressing, sour lives. Void of love, joy, peace, and hope. He rose again to offer us life to the full; life *full* of those things. Pressed down and running over. Even in the midst of hardship.

Third, he offers us **eternal life**. Everlasting life. Life with him that never ends. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* (Jn 3:16)

And to cap it off, he offers **resurrection life**. New life, full life, eternal life, and resurrection life. It's not just a spiritual and experiential life that he offers us. It's physical. A physical life. With a new, glorified body like that of Jesus someday; when he returns. *We shall be like him* the Bible says, *because we shall see him as he is.* (1 Jn 3:2)

So no matter how you look at it, he offers us life. There's no more *penalty* left to pay, there's no more *wrath* for us to endure, and there's no more *guilt* for us to bear. The price was paid; the wrath was appeased; the guilt was removed. It's finished. So that he could offer us life.

➤ The question is, do you have it? Do you *have* the life he offers? You do if you have *Jesus*. If you've received him as your Savior and Lord; through faith and repentance. Faith in who he is and what he's done; and repentance of your sin. Asking his forgiveness and desiring to turn from it.

If you have Jesus through faith and repentance, you have life. *Whoever has the Son has life* [the Bible says]; *whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.* (1 Jn 5:12)

If that's you, if you don't have Jesus, if you haven't received him as Savior and Lord, I'm going to lead you in a prayer as we close. Don't ignore it. Take advantage of it.

But before we get there, there's two more reasons to worship him. The first, is that . . .

He's Lord of all (Eph 1:19-21)

Worship Jesus because he's Lord of all. You may not realize it or acknowledge it, but that doesn't make it any less true.

Eph 1:20-21 says – *[God] raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* That makes Jesus, Lord. Lord of all.

The word isn't used; but it's certainly described. And it's used hundreds of times elsewhere in the New Testament.

The point being, he rules and reigns over every-one and every-thing. What he says goes. What he does, sticks. What he decides, happens. Because God seated him at his right hand; the place of power and privilege and authority. Above every other power and authority. And not just for a time, but forever. Making him Lord of all, for all time.****

➤ You say, "I don't see it, Pastor. If he's Lord of all, how come it's not apparent to me?" Well, because first of all, he rules and reigns from *heaven*. Unseen. Second, he rules and reigns in the hearts and lives of those who follow him. And *only* those who follow him. And third, the eyes of your heart probably haven't been opened. Because *the god of this world* [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers the Bible says (2 Cor 4:4). You don't see him because you don't know him. You haven't received him.

But when he returns you will. Because he'll rule the *world*. Visibly. And every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is *Lord*. **Phil 2:10-11**.

God has highly exalted him . . . so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth [dead or alive], and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

There will come a day when *everyone* sees his Lordship. And everyone *acknowledges* it, whether they want to or not.

Only then, it's too late. When you're *forced* to bend the knee, *forced* to surrender to his Lordship, it's too late. The only thing that awaits you then, is an eternity of remorse and punishment.****

➤ He wants *willing* followers. Now. And Lord of all that he is, he deserves it. He wants people who believe *before* they see him; before he returns. Based on faith. That's where the blessing is.

Like he told Thomas just after his resurrection. Seeing the holes in his hands and feet and side, Thomas said, "*My Lord and my God!*" (Jn 20:28) An awesome confession. But Jesus said, "*Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" (Jn 20:29)

➤ Does that describe *you*? Do you believe? Is Jesus *your* Lord? If not, risk it no longer. Miss out no more. Bend the knee and surrender now. Humble yourself and face the truth.

The moment you do, he will lift you up, fill your soul, and give you joy unspeakable. Peace unexplainable. Hope indescribable. In fact, he'll open your eyes to things you've never seen, and change your heart to do what you've never done: worship him.

But you have to believe. Now. You have to surrender. You have to follow him as Lord.

And then last, the 4th reason to worship him, is that . . .

He's coming back (2 Thess 1:9-10)

Express your heart-felt adoration, affection, and devotion to Jesus because he conquered death, he offers life, he's Lord of all, and he's coming back. Not to *die* this time, but to judge.

1 Pet 4 says that those who live for themselves – those who *don't* believe in Jesus, those who *don't* worship him – *will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the*

dead. Jesus is coming again to judge *everyone* who doesn't know him. They will be held responsible for their sin. Including their rejection of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

And **2 Thess 1:9** says – *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, [10] when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed.*

➤ He's coming back. And when he does, he's going to welcome those who worship him, and judge those who don't. With *the punishment of eternal destruction* it says. Eternal suffering. Where *the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever*. (Rev 14:11)*****

He's coming back. And when he does, what are you going to hear? Will it be, "Well done, good and faithful servant? Inherit the kingdom prepared for you?" Or, "I never knew you, depart from me?"

I hope it's the former. I hope it's, "Enter my rest." Because then you can worship him forever.

But it all depends on what you do *now*. Whether you worship him *now*. (**Summary**) If you die or he returns, it's too late. It starts with a decision to trust him and follow him *now*.

If you've never made that decision, pray with me, will you? Let's bow our heads.

➤ Prayer of Salvation. In the quietness of your heart, pray something like this: "God, I admit that I'm a sinner and need to be saved. I admit it. And I believe in Jesus to save me; to save me from the consequences of my sin. Oh God, save me and give me life. I believe. And I repent. I repent of my sin. The sinful things I've done, and the sinful heart I have. Please forgive me and wash me. I want to live for you from now on. I repent. So come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. Come into my heart and make me new." I receive you, and worship you.

As we continue in prayer, if you just prayed with me, will you raise your hand and wait for me to acknowledge you? I'm not going to call you out or call you forward, I just want to encourage you and pray for you. Is there anyone?

Prayer – Lord, will you solidify the decisions that were just made? Will you seal them with your Spirit and give them an overwhelming desire to know you? And worship you? Give them great joy in believing.

Confetti – For centuries, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching churches like ours have greeted one another on Easter with "He is risen. He is risen indeed!" And it's become tradition for us to say it corporately. So when I say, "**He is risen**," you say, "He is risen indeed!" (Confetti)

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