

Jesus, Our Worship Leader

Hebrews 2:8-18

We are all worshippers.

Every person on earth worships someone or something. Worship is hardwired into who we are as people. We worship things like money or power or fame. We worship people like great athletes or parents or friends. Because we worship, we end up having worship leaders; those who direct us to whom or to what we are worshipping. If we worship money, perhaps our financial advisor becomes our worship leader. If we worship our friends, then our friends become our worship leaders.

The stark reality of worship is that anything we worship outside of the One, True, Holy God will lead to death. Only in worshipping God do we find life and truth. God has provided for us a worship leader. Certainly our church and many other churches have folks who stand at the front and lead us in song or guide us through our service of worship, but in truth, none of them are actually THE worship leader. Jesus is our worship leader. He is the way to God. He knows us and knows what it is like to be us. He goes before us to the throne of God and by His sacrifice and intercession on our behalf makes the way for us to worship God and find life.

What does it mean to worship God?

A five-fold definition of worship from Deuteronomy 10:12-13:

What does the LORD your God require of you?

- to fear the LORD your God,
- to walk in all his ways,
- to love him,
- to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and
- to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD
- Worship is about God. God has given us the way to worship Him and it is only through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)

Main Idea: Jesus is both worthy of worship and is our worship leader who knows us and brings us before God's throne.

Jesus is to be worshipped. (v. 8b)

- Jesus is supreme over all. (Hebrews 1:3)
 - Jesus is better than angels.
- Everyone will worship Him (Phil. 2:10-11)
- Though we don't yet see it, Jesus is worthy of all worship.
 - The "already and not yet" paradigm

Jesus is our worship leader. (v. 9-18)

Jesus leads us through death. (v. 9)

- Jesus is crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death
- Jesus tastes death not because He deserved it, but because we do.
 - Jesus' interaction with death was not a glancing blow. It wasn't an easy or passing thing. This passage gives us the lived body detail of tasting death, that visceral awful feeling of death that gets in your mouth.
- He dies so we don't pay the ultimate penalty of eternal death.

Jesus leads us to glory. (vv. 10-11)

- Glory – the very presence of God that is so powerful that Moses wasn't even allowed to look at God in His glory. He just got a glimpse.

- Jesus leads us to something better than an emotional experience.
- “founder” = “champion” or “pioneer”
- “Perfect through suffering” – One commentator says that perfect here is used in the sense of “achieving the highest goal.” It does not mean Jesus lacked in perfection but rather that the salvation He is rendering and of which He is the founder is made perfect through His suffering. He is perfecting salvation through suffering. The final perfection of salvation is wrought in the perfecting work of God through Christ Jesus.
- Because Jesus is fully God and fully man, He can also sanctify us as He takes on our sins.

Jesus leads us in praising God. (vv. 11-13)

- Jesus is one of us. He calls us brothers and stands with us to praise God.
- Jesus is better than a band, better than the person who stands in front and leads the singing.

Jesus leads us in triumph over the devil. (v. 14-15)

- Jesus lived in our skin. He knows our flesh and blood because He was and is flesh and blood. He is able to continually relate to us because He has a body, an eternal and glorified body.
- Jesus is better than the devil. He takes us from worshipping the devil and the fear of death to worshipping the One True God who gives life.
 - The fear of death is a weapon of the devil that Jesus takes away and renders useless. Not even death can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

Jesus leads us before the throne of God. (v. 16-17)

- Jesus isn't an angel and doesn't save angels. He is God and He became one of us. He “walked in our shoes.” Therefore, He is merciful and faithful as He leads us in worship and represents us before God.
- “Propitiation” – An atoning sacrifice that pays the penalty for sins and turns away the wrath of God.
 - “In the context of Hebrews the word atonement means that Jesus as high priest brought peace between God and man. God's wrath was directed toward man because of his sin, and man because of sin was alienated from God. Jesus became high priest. And as the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement entered the Holy of Holies, he sprinkled blood – first for himself and then for the people – to remove (literally, to cover) sin. In the same way, Jesus offered himself so that the shedding of his blood covered our sins. Thus we might be acquitted, forgiven, and restored. Jesus brought God and man together in inexpressible harmony. In the words of Paul, “Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1)” (Simon J. Kistemaker, *Hebrews*).
 - Jesus is better than the blood of bulls and goats. (Hebrews 9:11-13)
- Jesus not only leads worship, but He saves the worshippers. (Hebrews 7:23-25)

Jesus leads us safely through temptation to the throne of grace (v. 18)

- Jesus is the great worship leader because he knows temptation and has conquered it. He “gets” temptation. It's not hypothetical. He was really hungry in the wilderness when Satan tempted Him. He suffered when tempted.
- Jesus is better than Adam who fell to temptation.
- Jesus is better than sin and better than the death that sin brings.
- Jesus, our worship leader, leads us to the throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Jesus leads us in faith and joy. (chapter 12:1-3)

Jesus calls us to respond. (Hebrews 3:7b-8a; 12:28-29, 10:24-25, 13:1-5)

Leave your sin and respond in faith to Jesus' leadership. (3:7b-8a)

Worship God as He commands. (12:28-29)

Live as one who worships the One True God.

- By being part of the body of Christ. (10:24-25)
- By living out the love of God. (13:1-5)
- By singing with your Savior.