

## Worship: Great Is Our God

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Why would believers react to the fact that God has set forth guidelines on how He should be **worshipped**?

The foundational battle of the age is Human Reasoning versus Divine Revelation. (The Scriptures)  
The preaching of God's Word mounts a counter-revolution against our culture.

**Faith is, in essence a believing response to God's revelation.**

"Christians believe that true **worship** is the highest and noblest activity of which man, by the grace of God, is capable." John Stott

To **worship** God is to have the correct opinion about Him, properly recognizing His holy sovereignty.  
To **worship** God is to assign Him His supreme worth, acknowledging Him to be the Creator and Redeemer revealed in the sacred Scriptures. See: **Romans 11:33-36**

**True Congregational Worship...** (1) **Reading** the Bible (2) **Praying** the Bible (3) **Singing** the Bible  
(4) **Preaching** the Bible (5) **Yielding** to the Bible \*singing the Bible = our songs must be Biblical

"The authenticating, inner essence of **worship** is being satisfied with Christ, prizing Christ, cherishing Christ, treasuring Christ...**Worship** services should be about 'going hard after God'. When we say this what we mean is that we are going hard after satisfaction in God, and going hard after God as our prize, and going hard after God as our treasure, and soul-food, our heart-delight, our spirit's pleasure." John Piper

"The wonder of Christian **worship** is that when we come to God in the way he has established, we find him to be inexhaustible and discover that our desire to know and **worship** Him further is increased." J. Boice

"Authentic Christian preaching carries a note of authority and a demand for decisions not found elsewhere in society... The appetite for serious preaching has virtually disappeared among many Christians, who are content to have their fascinations with themselves encouraged from the pulpit – and are extremely resistant to any preaching that confronts or contradicts self-absorption." Al Mohler, President of Southern Seminary

"**I believe the goal of preaching is to compel people to make a decision.** I want people who listen to me to understand exactly what God's Word demands of them when I am through. Then they must say either, Yes, I will do what God says, or no I won't do what God says." John MacArthur

"**True worship takes place** when the authority of the Bible is rightly honored and the preaching of the Word is understood to the event whereby God speaks to His people through His Word..." Al Mohler

"**Worship** is increasingly treated as an opportunity for entertainment mixed with the possibility of a numinous experience. Persons move from congregation to congregation looking for the **worship** experience that will meet their perceived spiritual needs. **Worship** is turned into just another consumer commodity... This focus on the self and its perceived spiritual needs is another symptom of the basic narcissism at the heart of human sinfulness. Christians leave church services asking each other 'Did you get anything out of that?' Churches produce surveys to measure expectations for **worship**. Would you like more music? What kind? How about drama? Is our preacher sufficiently creative? Expository preaching demands a very different set of questions. Will I obey the Word of God? How must my thinking be realigned by Scripture? How must I change my behavior to be fully obedient to the Word? These questions reveal submission to the authority of God and reverence for the Bible as His Word." Al Mohler

Reverence is the only appropriate response to the acknowledgment that the Bible is the Word of God and that preaching is the proclamation of that Word to God's people.

The following is adapted from *Reflections on the Psalms* by C.S. Lewis

God is often not the center of our life, He is important to us only for something else. For those who love Him, He is enjoyed and there is fear to lose intimacy with Him. 'Heaven' should mean to have union with God and 'Hell' to mean separation from Him. That is why Heaven should be desired and Hell shunned – it's about God.

I find to be God-centered is to ask of God no gift more urgently than His presence, the gift of Himself, joyous to the highest degree, and unmistakably real.

**Fight to guard your heart**, want God more than anything! When asked by sinners to 'run with me'. Let them know you are not to 'good for them' the truth is you are 'not good enough'. You are not good enough to cope with all the temptations, nor clever enough to cope with all the problems; which an evening spent in such society produces.

\* The following quotes are either direct or adapted from John Piper

Man is not the center of the universe, God is and our comfort is not the most important thing on earth, His glory is. God's ultimate commitment is to Himself and not to us. And therein lies our security. **God loves His glory above all.**

The weakness of our hunger for God is not that He is unsavory, but because we keep ourselves stuffed with 'other things.'

Few things feel more gratifying to the heart of fallen man than being made much of for our accomplishments -especially our moral and religious accomplishments. The danger of hypocrisy is that it is so successful. It aims at the praise of men. And it succeeds. [Monday's work proves Sunday's worship!](#)

Every good deed we do in dependence on God does just the opposite of paying Him back; it puts us ever deeper in debt to His grace. And that is exactly where God wants us to be through all eternity. Good deeds do not pay back grace; they borrow more grace.

The gospel is not a 'help wanted ad'. It is a 'help-available ad.' God is not looking for people to work for Him but people who let Him work mightily in and through them.

**God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him!**

This is the great business of life – to put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks. I know of no other way to triumph over sin long-term, than to gain a distaste for it, because of a superior satisfaction in God. Our focus is not the ugliness of sin, but the beauty of the Savior!

**Worship** is basically adoration, and we adore only what delights us. God is our source of complete and unending pleasure. **Psalm 34:8**

**I find in the Bible a divine command to be a pleasure-seeker** – that is, to forsake the two-bit, low yielding, short-term, never-satisfying, person-destroying, God-belittling pleasures of the world and to sell everything 'with joy' in order to have the kingdom of heaven, and thus to enter into the joy of your Master.

[We should never try to deny or resist our longing to be happy](#), as though it were a bad impulse. Instead we should seek to intensify this longing and nourish it with whatever will provide the deepest and most enduring satisfaction. The deepest and most enduring happiness is found only in God. **Not from God, but in God!**