

We're All About Worship – John 4:23-24

Different service; Complete our time of worship *after* we open the Word

Because our focus this morning is worship

My hope is that the truths about worship, will fuel our worship that much more

3rd message in our series – **What's Up With Harvest?** Who we are, What we do, Why

Answer #1 – We're all about the Word

We're all about proclaiming the authority of God's Word without apology

Answer #2 – We're all about Prayer

All the time; In the Spirit; No matter what; For all the saints

We believe firmly in the power of prayer

Answer #3 – has to do with **worship**

We're all about lifting high the name of Jesus in worship

So why don't you open your Bibles to Col 1; Pray with me

We're all about worship, and we're all about lifting high the name of Jesus in worship . . .

Because Jesus is worthy (various Scriptures)

Jesus is worthy of our worship

Worthy of our mind's attention (focus), our heart's affection (love), and our will's submission (surrender) – that's worship, and Jesus is worthy of it

He's worthy of our corporate worship when we gather like this . . .

And he's worthy of our personal worship every day in between

And we do both by lifting high his name

Which means, exalting *him* by associating his *name*, with his divine attributes, and the great things he has done

Like when we sing – “Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God; Maker, of things we cannot comprehend”

We're naming his name, and associating it with his divine attributes, and the great things he has done

And in so doing, we exalt him with our mind's attention, our heart's affection, and our will's submission

It's kind of like lifting high the name of Michael Phelps in Olympic swimming

We honor him and look up to him as the greatest swimmer of all time, by naming his name and admiring his performances

In the same way, we honor Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, by naming *his* name, describing *his* attributes, and proclaiming his work

And there are at least 7 reasons we do so

7 Reasons he's worthy of such worship, starting with the fact that . . .

1. He's God in the flesh

Jesus is worthy of our worship because he's God in the flesh

Col 1:15 – *He is the image of the invisible God*

Jn 14:9 – *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*

Jn 1:1,14 – *In the beginning was the Word* [the embodiment of God's message], *and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*

That's Jesus – he was God from the beginning, and became flesh to dwell among us

We're all about lifting high his name, because of it

Jesus is worthy of our worship because . . .

2. He's the agent of creation

Col 1:16 – Jesus Christ, the 2nd person of the Trinity, spoke and the world came into being

He was the agent of the godhead through whom all things came into existence

He's worthy of our worship because he's the agent of creation

3. He's the sustainer of the world

Col 1:17 – he's the sustainer of the world

Heb 1:3b – *He upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

From the fabric of your body, to the super galaxies that dot the heavens – His power, expressed through his word, upholds/sustains it all

4. He's Lord of all

Rom 14:9 – *For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

Whether you acknowledge it or not, Jesus Christ is Lord of *all*; No exceptions

God has highly exalted him (Phil 2:9) so that at his name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess *that Jesus Christ is Lord*

He's Lord of all – the only question is whether you acknowledge him as such, especially in worship

5. He bore our sins

1 Pet 2:24 – *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness*

Christ bore our sins, and died for them in our place

So that we could and would no longer indulge in sin, and instead live to righteousness

I don't know about you, but that makes me want to honor and worship him

6. He appeased God's wrath

Sin makes God angry – there's no getting around it; and there are consequences for it

1 Jn 2:2 – *He is the propitiation for our sins* [the appeasement of God's wrath], *and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

In his death, Jesus paid the price and appeased God's wrath for the sins of the world

7. He rose from the dead

1 Cor 15:20 – *Christ has been raised from the dead*

1 Pet 1:3 – *According to his great mercy, he [God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

Not only did he bear our sins, pay our price, and appease the Father's wrath – but he beat the penalty, rose again to prove it, and ensured our salvation

We're all about lifting high the name of Jesus in worship, because he's worthy

Because God is looking for true worshippers (John 4:23-24)

Turn to John 4:23-24

We're all about worship because God is looking for people to worship him

He's looking for people like you and I who will devote our . . .
Hearts to seeking him; Minds to knowing him; Time to loving him
Talent to serving him; Treasure to advancing him
He's looking for people like you and I who will devote our entire lives to glorifying him
That's why we're all about worship

- But if you're going to worship the God of the universe, you do so on his terms, or not at all – *in spirit and in truth*
Twice in two verses he tells us that
23 – *true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth*
24 – *those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth*

And our first clue as to what that means comes from the previous verses (read v19-22)
19-20 – “I can't reconcile the fact that you're obviously someone special like a prophet,
but you're saying things that are contrary to what I've been taught by my forefathers”

Up to that point, the worship of God was centered around the temple in Jerusalem
where the presence of God was manifested in the inner sanctuary, the holy of holies
But there was a long running dispute between the Samaritans and the Jews, as to the
real place of God's presence; and therefore the real place of true worship

The Samaritans said the real temple and real place of worship was on Mt Gerazim, not Mt Zion in Jerusalem
They said as much because they had been kicked out of the inner circle of worship by the Jews in Jerusalem . . .
Because the Jews thought of themselves as pure in their lineage, as opposed to the Samaritans who had inter-married with other cultures

So, the Sam's took their ball and their bat, built their own temple, invented their own form of religion, and essentially “played worship” like a school girls play house
In fact, they went so far as to completely reject the Psalms/Prophets, accepting only the Law of Moses (first 5 books of OT) as truth
Even then, they twisted it in order to rationalize their practice – like saying that all the mountains mentioned in Gen–Deut really refer to Mt Gerazim

- All of which is why Jesus said in v22 – *you worship what you do not know, we worship what we know*
Your desires are good and all, but you don't have a clue who you're worshipping . . .
Because you reject the truth of who God is and what he's done, and basically replace him with a figment of your imagination

Not only that he says, but salvation is from the Jews . . .
Referring to the Messiah who would come from the lineage of David, not from the Samaritans or anyone else
Of course, he reveals himself to be that Messiah a few verses later

The point being, that true worship involves the true God – based on the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
The truth of who he is, what he's done, and what he requires
Anything else, is false; It's false worship

- That doesn't play very well in our politically correct world, does it?
Where people are fond of saying that we all worship the same God
That there are different paths to God; That they all lead to the same place
One religion is as good as another
And Jesus is like – uh-uh

Worship that's not based on truth he's saying, is no worship at all; It's playing house
Because true worshippers worship in truth
They worship based on the truth of who God *is*, not who they *think* he is . . .
Not who they *want* him to be
Not who they're *comfortable* with based on their lifestyle, mood, culture

God's not looking for people who make up a religion, do their own thing, & call it church
God is looking for true worshippers who will worship him in truth
That is, based on the truth of who he is, what he's done, and what he requires to approach him in all his holiness and splendor

And *that*, is a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ as your Lord/Savior
That's what he requires for you and I to worship him
That's what he requires in order to enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; That's the truth
Apart from that relationship, there can be no true worship of the true God, because you're still his enemy – you're not reconciled to him

- God is looking for true worshippers, and if you're going to be one of them you must be reconciled to him through faith in Jesus Christ
Then and only then, can you worship him on *his* terms – *in truth*, first of all
And secondly, *in spirit*

Meaning – from the heart, regardless of location
That's the thrust of v21
IOW, all this location thing is going to be a great big moot point in a little while

There will come a time he was saying, when location, location, location doesn't matter
A time when the HS indwells every single believer, and geographic location no longer matters when it comes to worship

And we're in that time – *the hour is coming and is now here* Jesus said
That time in God's plan of redemption on this side of the cross . . .
Were he indwells every single believer, every single person who surrenders their life to Lordship of Christ . . .
With the presence of his Spirit, so we can worship him with ours – any time, any where, from the heart

That's what it means to worship *in spirit and in truth*
And God is looking for people to do so
And those who have been reconciled to him by faith in Jesus Christ – can't help it

Which is the 3rd reason we're all about worship here at Harvest . . .
Because we can't help it

We've received the greatest gift in the world

We've been forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal damnation

We've been given eternal life and life to the full

We enjoy a personal relationship with the giver of the gift, Jesus . . .

The one who saved us, and keeps us, and will never leave us

The one who is God *with* us, and God *in* us

And so we worship – because we can't help it

Our past is forgiven; Our present has purpose; Our future is secure

And so we worship, because our hearts overflow – with gratitude, praise, song, joy

- If you've never experienced that overflow of the heart, chances are, u don't know him

Because . . . Once you *see* but a glimpse of his majesty, beauty, holiness

Once you *taste* but a morsel of his goodness in your life

Once you *experience* but a drop of his amazing grace

Your heart will overflow with a flood of worship – because you can't help it

If that's you – stand in just a minute, and worship from the overflow of your heart

If that's not you, let our worship be a testimony to u of the goodness/greatness of God

And the surpassing worth of Jesus Christ

And maybe even give your life to him right now . . .

So that you too can join us in lifting high the name of Jesus in worship

- Pray

If you're here and you have yet to surrender your life to Christ, just call out to him

Lord, you're worthy of my worship

Here's my life – cleanse me, save me, and use me for your glory

I worship you – because you're worthy

Father, we're all about worship because we're all about your Son

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain – to receive honor and power and glory

We worship you in spirit/truth, because we can't help it – our hearts overflow, having

been saved by your grace and rescued by your goodness

So now God, may our worship be a sweet sacrifice of praise unto you

Are you ready? Let's worship the everlasting God

Elder Installation – Darrell Henricksen (Susan)

There's one more very important part of our service that remains, and that's the installation of an elder

You've seen **Darrell Henricksen's** name in the bulletin for 4 weeks now . . .

So we want to take this time to formally commend him to you, and install him as an elder in our church – Darrell/Susan; Elders

Intro elders – Dave, John, Dan

Together with myself, we consider it a privilege to serve as your elders

The decision to add to our number has been a long time coming, with much prayer, fasting, discussion, and observation of your life (Darrell)

It certainly was not a light decision

This a big deal, for several reasons

1. The responsibility is huge

You will join with us in bearing the responsibility to oversee the doctrine, the direction, and the discipline in this church

2. The qualifications are high

God has raised a very high standard for those who are elders

A standard that must be met both initially and ongoingly, by men in this role

3. The commitment is for life

We believe that God wires certain people as elders (like deacons, pastors, teachers)

So we ask our elders here at Harvest, barring some extenuating circumstance, to commit to this role for life

4. The stakes are high

Acts 20:28 (Paul is speaking to the elders at the church in Ephesus)

Darrell – pay careful attention to yourself and your life and your testimony

And pay careful attention to this church, in which the HS has made you an elder . . .

Because the stakes are high – God has purchased the people of this body, with his own blood

Darrell – Will you commit yourself to fulfilling this role in the strength that God provides?

Kneel – Join us as we pray (Dan and me; Dave and me; John and me)

Stand and worship one last time – we have much for which to praise the Lord

Close

Next week – We're all about the Good News

Salvation message; Invite someone who needs to hear

In the meantime – don't let this be a flash in the pan; cultivate a life of worship

We're all about it