

A CLOSER LOOK AT WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION: ISAIAH 6:1-8

1. The word *worship* means “to prostrate one’s self, to bow down, to fall down flat” (Hebrew) or “to kiss the hand toward one; to bow down before another” (Greek).
2. It is the idea of humbling one’s self in the presence of another to show reverence, respect, and honor.
3. Thus, worship involves coming into the presence of God.
4. Man’s worship to God is tied directly to His nature and character (Psalm 113).
 - a. His *transcendence*
 - b. His *immanence*
5. Let us consider one who stood in the presence of God and take a closer look at worship.

I. WE MUST LOOK UPWARD (vs. 1-4)

- A. Isaiah describes the transcendence of God.
 1. His majesty (1a)
 2. His greatness (1b)
 3. His supremacy (2)
 4. His holiness (3a)
 5. His glory (3b)
 6. His power (4a)
 7. His terror (4b)
- B. As we look upward at the nature and character of God, we must be filled with reverence.
 1. Reverence is “respect tinged with awe” (Random House Dictionary).
 2. Biblically, it is tied to fear at the terribleness of God; thus, why one bows in His presence (Isa. 66:2; Psalm 89:7; Matt. 10:28; Heb. 12:28-29).
- C. We must have a proper understanding of the nature of God in order to worship Him in reverence.
 1. He is not “the man upstairs” or “the big guy in the sky.”
 2. He is not some ill-defined, impersonal “higher power.”
 3. He is the Almighty, holy, just, Creator of all.
- D. As we worship together, have we looked upward?

II. WE MUST LOOK INWARD (vs. 5)

- A. When confronted with the majesty of God, Isaiah was forced to look inward.
- B. In comparison to God, Isaiah was in a sad condition.
 1. Remember, Isaiah was no spiritual weakling.
 2. Illus.: a slightly dirty shirt next to a new white one
- C. Isaiah realized three things about himself.
 1. Without God, he was lost (“woe”).
 2. Because of sin, he was lost (“unclean lips”).
 3. Like everyone else, he was lost.
- D. Peter realized the same things in a similar situation (Luke 5:4-9).
- E. As we worship together, have we looked inward?

III. WE MUST LOOK BACKWARD (vs. 6-7)

- A. As Isaiah reflected upon his condition, his sin was taken away and purged.
- B. This is a beautiful picture of the grace of God.

- C. It reminds us that we can come into the presence of God only because He has taken our sins away (John 13:8-9; 1 John 1:7-9).
 - 1. Not arbitrarily, but when we submit to Him in obedience
 - 2. Plan of salvation
 - D. Thus, as we worship we must look backward...
 - 3. To the grace of God (*singing, giving*)
 - 4. To the cross of Christ (*Lord's supper*)
 - 5. To the truth of the Gospel (*preaching*)
 - 6. To the presence and help of God (*prayer*)
 - E. As we worship together, have we looked backward?
- IV. WE MUST LOOK OUTWARD (VS. 8)
- A. Being in the presence of God caused Isaiah to look outward to his fellowman.
 - B. When we assemble to worship, God still charges us to carry out His will in our world (Hebrews 10:24-25).
 - 1. "Enter to worship; exit to serve."
 - 2. Christianity is not limited to the first day of the week.
 - C. Assembling to worship God ought to motive us to evangelism – "Here am I, send me!"
 - 1. We recognize God's majesty.
 - 2. We recognize man's sinfulness.
 - 3. We recognize man's only hope is God's mercy.
 - 4. We recognize our need to tell others!
 - D. As we worship together, have we looked outward?

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Acceptable worship must be in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- 2. True worship results in a focusing of one's perspective about God and self.
- 3. True worship motivates faithful service.
- 4. Have you worshipped God today?