

Worshiping Him

Sermon #0961

Study by W.D. Frazee—January 1, 1966

It is a wonderful privilege to be in God's house on God's day. And in His name, I wish you all, a Happy New Year. It can be that for every one of us. That is heaven's plan. Now this morning, the first Sabbath of the new year, I would like to have us turn to the book of Revelation, the 14th chapter. This is a wonderful book, it is not by accident, but by heavens planning, that it is the last book of Scripture, the 66th book, in this great library of books, that we call the Bible. Revelation, the last book, deals with the last things. It deals primarily and in a focused way with the closing events of human history. And you and I who are living in the end of time, have a special interest in this wonderful book, don't we?

The 14th chapter is the heart of the whole book, for it contains the great three fold message. And I would like to study the first of these messages with you this morning. Or rather begin the study of this first message. At another hour we shall study it further. But this morning with your Scriptures, with your Bible open, let us read together Revelation 14:6-7. Together.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” Revelation 14:6-7.

Now we might focus our minds this morning, on that expression, “the hour of His judgment is come.” We might review the great prophecy of Daniel 8:14, focusing on our day. We might work out the mathematics and come to that date, October 22, 1844, when God's great clock struck the hour of His judgment. But, that is not what the angel is speaking about, as far as our duty is concerned. He gives that fact as a reason why, we should do certain things. And the fact of course is of great importance, and it needs to be proclaimed with a loud voice, in this judgment hour. But notice three things that the angel tells you and me to do, in view of the fact that the hour of God's judgment is come. What is the first? Fear God. What is the second? Give glory to Him. What is the third? And worship him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of waters.

What I would like to study with you for a little while this morning, this matter of worshiping God. Worshiping God, in giving glory to Him. This hour is the hour or worship you know. What does it mean to worship? Turn to the Psalms of David. I would like to notice some verses in the 95th Psalm and the 96th Psalm. The Psalms, you know, are the great hymnbooks, and a hymn here is a song of praise to God. Now the 95th Psalm opens with what two words? “O come.” And what does the 96th

Psalm open with, what two words? “O sing.” Alright. Now in each case, notice that the coming is to the Lord, the singing is to the Lord. Worship is an act with God as its object.

You will remember that Jesus in His encounter with Satan in the wilderness, dismissed him at the last temptation, with the statement from Scripture. “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve.” Other beings we may respect, but worship is to be given unto God alone.

“O come, let us sing unto the Lord:...” Psalm 95:1.

“O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth” Psalm 96:1.

Now in the 96th Psalm and the ninth verse, notice.

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:...” Psalm 96:9.

Our worship should be beautiful worship. And I have a great longing that you and I, as we worship together from Sabbath to Sabbath here, shall bring to God the most beautiful worship possible. Will you join me in that? And I think if we will study together, from week to week, how we may improve the order of our worship, how we may increase the beauty of the offering that we give to God, it will bring great joy to Him, and also great blessing to our own heart.

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:...” Psalm 96:9.

And I’ll mention the marginal rendering on that ninth verse.

“O worship the Lord in his glorious sanctuary...” Psalm 96:9
(marginal reading)

The angels are worshiping God in the sanctuary in heaven this morning. Ten thousands times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of bright beings, join their songs of praise as they worship and adore the Lord, the Creator of the universe. Now we are privileged by faith to enter into that sanctuary, as Paul tells us in Hebrews 10:19.

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,...Let us draw near...” Hebrews 10:19, 22

So by faith, we are bringing our worship to the throne room of the heavenly sanctuary, this morning. Isn’t that a great privilege friends? By faith, we are there. We are there. But now there is a place on earth, where God meets with His people. It is the place appointed for prayer and worship. It may be a building which has been built for and exclusively for religious worship. A church. But not always are God’s people privileged to meet in a building which has no other use. Remember this my friends, wherever God is present in the assemblies of His people, that place for that time is holy. Never forget that. You will remember that back there when Jacob had

that dream at the place he called Bethel, the reason he called it Bethel. (The name means, “the house of God”). The reason he called it Bethel, was that God had appeared to him there. He said, “this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Was it holy? Yes. You will remember, that later Moses, out in the desert, saw the burning bush, and as he drew near, what did the voice of God say? “Take off thy shoes” because this is “what”? Holy Ground. Now it had not hitherto been set apart, and I don’t suppose that that particular place in the ground was considered sacred from there on. But for that hour, while God was there, meeting with His servant, that was a holy place, and Moses was to conduct himself accordingly.

And so my dear friends, wherever the people of God are summoned to meet the divine appointment on the Sabbath day. Wherever we meet to worship the Creator, that place, that hour, is holy. And we are to worship the Lord in His glorious sanctuary, by faith. Penetrating within the veil, and joining our worship with the angelic throng. And in fact in body and mind and soul, entering here into His sanctuary, that we may worship Him. That is the purpose of our coming together. You know it is possible to get the idea that we come to church to meet with one another. Well somebody says, “don’t we”? Well, in a sense. Paul says, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. There is a blessing we receive in fellowship with one another, but if that is all that we are thinking of, we are just a lie. Just a society, just a human meeting, that’s all. But oh friends, we come first of all and most of all to meet with God. Is that right? We come here to God’s house and God’s day to worship God, and that is the message of the first angel.

“...Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters”
Revelation 14:7.

Now I would like to have us think this morning, of three things that are involved in that worship. First of all, we are to acknowledge Him, acknowledge Him. David says, “the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.” Psalm 14:1. And really, isn’t it a foolish man, that says, “there is no God”? Worship, represents first of all, recognition of our Creator. To acknowledge Him, not to pass on as if He were not there. As if He were not at all. To recognize Him, and oh how glad God is, when someone recognizes Him. Just think, nearly all the inhabitants of this world, between 2 and 3 billion people, that are going along today, without any recognition of God at all. Just like the beasts that walk along the trail or the road, with the head down, speaking only of the corn waiting at the barn. Just thinking about something to eat. But oh thank God, you and I have learned to know God.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” John
17:3.

Yes, worship is first of all, to acknowledge God, to recognize Him. Now it means not merely to “believe” that there is such a being. James says,

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” James 2:19.

They believe that there is a God, they tremble at His power, but do they worship Him? No. So there is more to this thing than merely admitting His existence. We are to acknowledge Him, my friends, as our Creator, our God. In every detail of our lives, and so the wise man says in Proverbs 3:6.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:6.

In other words, it is one thing to recognize that there is Creator that made all the universe, and think of Him, as there at the throne. It is another thing to say, that He is an active part of everything in life and to accept that, and that leads me to a second point in worship. And that is, accept Him as ruler. To accept Him as king. To recognize Him, not merely as One who made the universe, but as One who is running it, hour after hour, moment by moment. And to accept that rule into our life. But watch this point, and this is very interesting, children, young people, think of this a moment. When God runs the stars, He doesn't ask them whether they want it or not, they are just masses of matter and they run as He tells them. All the things in the universe, the material universe, they run as God tells them, because they are made that way. There is no chance for them to say no. But you and I have a peculiar privilege. We have the privilege of fitting into God's plan or being misfit. We have the privilege of letting that wonderful mind which runs the stars, run us, or we have the opportunity to say, “no, I would rather run myself and worship me.”

Not only to acknowledge Him as God, in the sense that He is there on the throne, but to accept Him into my heart, as the ruler of my own personal life. Is that right? Oh, have we come then this morning, to worship Him in that way? God grant it my dear friends. To give Him the first place in our lives, to put Him not merely on the throne of the universe. He is there and we can't change that. But to put Him on the throne of the heart, your heart, my heart. For you know, in that great collection of brain cells, where the mind of man functions, there is a throne room, and you can decide who occupies that. I can tell you this my friends. There is only two beings that can be placed upon that throne. One is God and the other is His arch enemy, the Devil. And never think, and dear young people in your teens, give me your special attention to this point, never think that there is a third choice. That there is an opportunity for you to sit on the throne, with neither God nor the Devil having anything to do with your life. There is no such experience, nobody has ever had it, nobody ever will.

You have a choice, true. But your choice is to accept God as the ruler or as the inevitable result, if you fail to make that choice, Satan takes control. And do not think that you necessarily have to say with your lips. Or even frame it into an unspoken decision. “I will have Satan as my master.” Not so. Let me illustrate it. In a few weeks, people will be plowing ground for gardens. Now you may think that you have the choice of having some nice lettuce or carrots or beets or turnips or tomatoes, or this or that, by having weeds, or having nothing. But you don't have that choice at all. You have the choice of having a nice garden, yes. And you could of course deliberately decide, “I think I will grow weeds this year.” You could do that.

But you don't have to come to that decision, in order to have that result, do you? If you fail to make the first choice and carry it through, nature takes over and you have the weeds, whether you sat down and signed your name to a statement that you would or not. Am I correct? And so it is in the life, my friends.

The young man the young women the boy or the girl that does not give Jesus the throne of his heart, will have Satan guiding the thoughts and influencing the actions. Oh what a great privilege it is then to worship God. Not only to acknowledge Him as I said, as ruler of the universe, but to accept Him as ruler of the life.

Now there is a third point about worship I want you to think about. We are not only to acknowledge Him, to accept Him, but to adore Him. And here worship rises to its true and lofty height. And what does it mean to adore Him. Well, my friends, it means to love Him. It means to appreciate His character. It means to like what He does and to like most of all what He is. It means to think of His justice, His mercy, His wisdom, His power. To think of what He has been from all eternity, what He will be through all eternity, and to just stand there, to kneel there, in whole fold adoration, and say. My God, how great Thou art? How wonderful Thou art. O Lord I love Thee. I love Thee. I love Thee with all my heart. Notice, this is not the kind of love that we give to a fellow creature. I am sorry to say there has been a type of so called religion that has infiltrated into modern Protestantism, that makes of God a sort of pal or a good natured Santa Claus. It is paganism, my dear friends, just as pagan the hideous, wicked, mean, cruel gods of the heathen.

While God wants to come very close to us, we must never forget dear friends, that there is an infinite difference between the Creator and the creature. If it has always been, it will always be, heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. But a million million years from now, there will still be the great infinity between what we know of Him and what He really is. That is what is going to make eternal life worthwhile. And so as we worship Him this morning, let us not only acknowledge Him and accept His kingly rule personally. Let us adore Him, let us meditate upon His character, and let our hearts go out in true appreciation of everything about Him. What do you say my friends? Oh let's do it.

Now this worship is expressed in various ways. We have been noting here in the 95th and 96th Psalm, and if you still have your Bibles opened to those Psalms, notice. Let's read, and I will have you read responsively with me, Psalm 95, verses 1-6. I will read the first, and you will read the second.

“O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker” Psalm 95:1-6.

Now note. The various ways in which worship is expressed. We are to sing unto the Lord. You know, that is why God gave us the gift of music, the gift of singing. That is what these musical instruments are for, to worship God with. What a shame that they should ever be prostituted to the glorification of human beings. What a shame dear friends. The message of the angel is, fear God and give glory to him and worship him.

That is what music is for, is to worship God. And may I say to you, music usually accomplishes the worship of something. Somebody. Take any type of music you want, and it brings glory to some thing, some body. Yes. Some of it brings glory to the Devil. A lot of it brings glory to human performers. But true music, music used in its true sense, brings glory to whom? To God. O come and let us sing unto the Lord,

Let's do it, what do you say? Those who choose the songs to be sung in religious worship should think of this. There are times appropriate for different types of religious music. But when we come to the worship of God on Sabbath morning, let us sing unto the Lord, first of all, what do you say?

Now you notice in our opening song this morning, that was addressed to the Lord. Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me ever to adore thee. Do you see friends? Oh let us then as we come to the hour of worship, in the place of worship, on the day of worship, bring a song of worship, a hymn to our king. And let us sing with the spirit and with the understanding, what do you say? How appropriate that that opening song of the Sabbath hour of worship, be a hymn of praise to the creator.

Now notice that we are also to worship Him in prayer. You read it a moment ago, will you read it all together with me again?

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel
before the Lord our maker” Psalm 95:6.

I have often wondered how it is, that this Psalm can be read, this verse, enter into the service, in congregations where people never kneel. What do we do with this verse? I suppose it runs along in the same groove as reciting the Sabbath commandment on the day that God never blessed and sanctified. Do you see what I mean? I am so glad that as we read this verse, we are part of a people that do what it says, and that is, when we worship God in His sanctuary, the hour of worship, we do what? We kneel, that is what the verse says. Let's do it. But what is the purpose of kneeling. It is to manifest and also to deepen our feelings of respect and worship and adoration of the great God, is that right? That's it.

You will remember Shadrach Meshach and Abednego wouldn't kneel before that dumb idol, which represented the power of Babylon and was the symbol of its majesty. They would kneel only before “whom”? Before God. Oh friends, as it would be wrong for them to kneel before the idol, how appropriate it is for us to kneel before the Creator. Let us not miss that in our worship. Then the 96th Psalm and the eighth verse. Another part of worship, Psalm 96:8.

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name:...” Psalm 96:8.

This is the first angel’s message again, “fear god and give glory to him.”

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering,..” Psalm 96:8.

Is this part of the worship of God? Oh yes. How wonderful it is that we can worship God with an offering. And if in God’s providence we do not have that kind of offering to bring, we always have and we all have the offering of loving hearts gratitude. So we can all share in that part of the worship, as well as in the singing and the prayer.

“...bring an offering, and come into his courts” Psalm 96:8.

Now we are not only in the worship of God to worship Him in song and in prayer and in offering, as we hear His word, we are to respond. That is part of the worship of God. There is a word that is used often in the Bible particularly in the Psalms and that is, “Amen.” Do you know what that word “Amen” means? “May it be so.” That’s right. And God wants us as the word is preached, if we hear something that expresses our soul’s thinking, our decision, our response, let us say “amen.” Again, when one is offering prayer the congregation may appropriately say “amen”, if their hearts are moved in harmony with it. But more than this, we are to tell in the congregation of His goodness. Look at the 105th Psalm the first two verses. Psalm 105:1-2. Together

“O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works” Psalm 105:1-2.

What do we use to talk? Why, we use the tongue, the lips, the throat. And God has given us those organs of speech, just as He has given us musical instruments to praise Him. To tell of His wondrous work, to make known His deeds. And so part of the worship of God on this holy day is to do that very thing. I am so glad my dear friends, and notice, this is to be a happy experience. As Brother Cancelor was bringing to us in the Sabbath School, Christians are to be what? The happiest people in all the world. And worshiping God brings that. Now the third verse.

“Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord” Psalm 105:3.

And truly there is joy in it. And so right now, we are going to have a time for praising God. For responding to the word which we have heard from the Scriptures this morning. We are going to have a time to speak to the glory of His name. And remember, we are doing it because we fear God and we want to give glory to Him, and what? And worship Him. We are acknowledging Him as king, we are accepting

Him as ruler, we are adoring Him, because we love His beautiful character. Oh how He will appreciate our individual worship, joined and fused together in this offering of praise we bring Him as an assembled congregation this morning. Let us praise the Lord.

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