

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: October 2nd 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Encounter 3: Worship

Introduction: This talk explored what is happening when we approach God with songs and words of praise and worship. The word 'worship' has three uses. One is to describe the whole quality of our lives, where all that we do, say and think is an act of showing God what he is worth to us (i.e. worship - see Revelation 12:1).

The second use of the word is when it is used to describe all that happens when Christians gather for a 'service': some traditions see all aspects of their meetings as 'worship' and perhaps even describe their gatherings as 'Sunday Worship'.

The third use of the word- and the one followed in this talk - is to see worship as a deliberate act of drawing near to God to give him our attention and adoration.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Revelation 4

Reflect:

- John's whole vision and his entry through heaven's door is Spirit-led (see 1:10 and 4:2). What do you think it means to 'be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day?' (1:10)?
 - What is the connection between being 'in the Spirit' and authentic worship?
 - How can we be 'in the Spirit' - or indeed 'out of the Spirit'?! (Read Ephesians 4:17-32 - and note verse 30).
- John is invited to view heaven's worship!
 - What is the centerpiece of heaven's worship? (v2 and see 5:6)
 - How would you describe the worship of the four creatures (representatives of creation) and the elders (representatives of God's faithful people)? (6b-10)
 - How do your answers to these first two questions, help us enter into worship ourselves, when we gather as church?
- Read the five hymns of worship in 4:8, 11 and 5:9-10,12, 13.
 - What do these hymns tell us about the subject matter of authentic worship?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- Step out of Revelation and look up the following passages, that all include a reference to worship: Matthew 2:11, 14:33, 28:9 and 28:17. Note that these acts of worship are all responses to becoming aware of Jesus' presence?
 - What do these verses teach us about true worship?
- If worship is a response to the presence of God:
 - how can we best prepare for gathered worship?
 - How can those leading our gatherings help us to worship? (*feel free to pass any significant insights on to the elders for reflection*).

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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