

"THE POWER OF GOD IN PRAYER" Five Week Bible Class:

1. God's Power

2. Adoration 3. Confession 4. Thanksgiving 5. Supplication

Date: 5-20-18 Lesson 2 - Adoration / Worship / Praise

TEXTS:

(Matthew 2:1-11) ...wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, (2) saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to **worship** him."...(10) When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. (11) And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and **worshiped** him...

(Matthew 4:10) Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall **worship** the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

(John 4:20-24) Our fathers **worshiped** on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." (21) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you **worship** the Father. (22) You **worship** what you do not know; we **worship** what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the **true worshipers** will **worship** the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to **worship** him. (24) God is spirit, and those who **worship** him **must worship** in spirit and truth."

(Acts 17:23-25) For as I passed along and observed the objects of your **worship**, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you **worship** as unknown, this I proclaim to you. (24) The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, (25) nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

(Acts 24:14-16) But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I **worship** the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, (15) having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. (16) So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

(Romans 12:1-2) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual worship**. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Hebrews 12:28-29) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God **acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe, (29) for our God is a consuming fire.

(Revelation 4:8-11) "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (9) And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, (10) the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and **worship** him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

(Revelation 15:3-4) And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! (4) Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and **worship** you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

(Revelation 22:3-9) No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will **worship** him. (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever... (7) "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (8) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to **worship** at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, (9) but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.**"



STUDY NOTES:

1. Definition of “Adoration”:

Primarily, worship directed to God in His majesty - The word for “worship” commonly used in this specific sense in the OT is “hishtawah”, from “shaha”, to bow, to prostrate oneself. In the NT the specific word is “proskuneo”—to prostrate oneself, to adore, to worship. The general concept of worship, however, included the broader aspects of “the service of God.” The OT word for this idea is “abodah”, from “abad”, to labor, to serve. In the NT this idea is expressed in the word “latría”, originally meaning servitude, the state of a hired laborer or slave. Later the word described a gratuitous act by a citizen for the state, as, for instance, if a ship were built at a citizen's expense and given to the navy. Christians use it in the terms “church service,” “divine service,” “religious service,” or simply “service.”

Since God is served not only by expressions of adoration but by acts of service to the least of our Lord's brethren, “worship” is often used to include all that a believing man does for God's sake. In this sense worship is everything that a child of God does in faith. The mutually edifying acts of Christians for one another, “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,” are particularly described as aspects of worship. Every act of charity, done “as unto God” can well be called worship, especially since there is really nothing that a creature can do for the Creator except to show love and concerns for His other creatures. Such a definition of worship, however, equates it with the Christian life. To provide a workable definition of worship, the “recognition of the absolute worth of God” which pervades these actions could more helpfully be described as worship.

The Christian worships when he gives to God the glory that is due His name; when he confesses his faults to Him whom he knows to be faithful and just to forgive his trespasses; when he gives thanks at all times and in all places for all things that a loving God directs in his life; and when he presents prayers and supplications for all sorts and conditions of men, and all this always as a member of the Kingdom and within the frame of the will of God, which is the basic premise of adoration.” <http://encyclopedia.lcms.org/display.asp?t1=w&word=WORSHIP>

2. The Hymn of Praise in the divine service:

On the night of Jesus' birth, the angels let loose their earth-shattering song of praise: “Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” On that specific occasion, their praise gave utterance to the good news that the Son of God had come in the flesh. Heaven had come down to earth! And ever since, the Church has continued to rejoice in this miracle of our salvation.

The opening words of the Gloria in Excelsis are followed by a hymn of praise to the Triune God. One can imagine the faithful singing these words in heaven: “We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.” Our focus is on the incarnate Son of God, the only-begotten Son, the Lamb of God, and only Son of the Father. And if that isn't enough to name this One who is the object of our worship and praise, twice we sing, “you take away the sin of the world.”

There it is, the heart and substance of the Christian faith. In heaven we will be gathered around the throne and the Lamb, confessing that he alone is holy, he alone is the Lord. In more recent times, the Lutheran Church in North America has made a significant contribution to the church's liturgy through the alternate Hymn of Praise, “This is the Feast.” Drawing directly from the description of heaven in the Revelation to St. John, our voices are joined to that heavenly throng as we sing with them: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12) <https://www.lcms.org/worship/liturgy-parts>

3. The Book of Psalms are filled with adoration and praise of God. (Psalm 27, 63, 66, 73, 84, 103, 111-118)

4. CTCR booklet on prayer: file:///C:/Users/David/Downloads/CTCR_TheologyandPracticeofPrayer_2011.pdf

HYMNS for LIFE APPLICATION:

Let each day begin with prayer,
Praise, and **adoration**.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;
He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night
Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might,
With His presence cheer you.

Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, **adoration**
Now and forevermore be Thine!

O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
While angels delight
to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
With true **adoration**
shall sing to Thy praise.