**WORSHIP**

By Minister Kenneth Williams

So far we have looked at the Word, prayer and witnessing as being essential to a healthy growing Christian life. There are many virtues essential to our identity as believers, all involve worship. Worship permeates all we are and all we do. Paul commands the Thessalonians to “…give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (1Thes 5:18).” There is no aspect of our existence that doesn’t involve glorifying God, it is for this reason that we’ll look at the meaning of worship for the believer. Paul would further call this constant act praise our “true and proper worship,” as translated in the NIV (Rom 12:1).

One of the most dramatic scenes in the Bible is in Rev 5:11-14 where the heavenly host gives glory to God. Earlier in the chapter John wept bitterly because in the vision that he saw, no one was worthy to open the scroll, held by the One who sat upon the throne. It was soon revealed to him that only the Lamb was worthy. This is key to our understanding of worship because essential to its meaning is the worthiness of the object of worship.

 Think about all the things people venerate today and esteem as worthy of praise. The list is long, but we can summarize it with two words, wealth and fame. One verse in the gospel song “I’ve decided to make Jesus my choice” says, “…these things they treasure and forget about their soul, I’ve decided to make Jesus my choice.” Such a confession shows a divinely given understanding that only God is worthy of our praise because of who He is and what He has done!

The scene that John saw involved worship so great that it defies imagination. Since ten thousand represented the largest known number at the time, John multiplied it by ten thousand! This heretofore, unheard of number of angels were crying out around the throne, saying:

 “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth (Rev 5: 9-10).”

The psalmist cried, “ let everything that has breath praise the Lord!” Indeed, one day every knee will bow, and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Ps 150:6; Phil 2:10-11)!” How much so do believers have the great privilege and reason to worship and praise our God. Peter states, perishable things did or could not redeem us, but “…the precious blood of Christ a lamb without blemish or defect (1Pet 1:19).” That is why the innumerable company of angels, cried:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise (vs 11)!”

The Greek word for praise has a broad meaning, including adulation, blessings, and to speak well of, but the worshippers around the throne only ended with the word praise, and also included six other things befitting of His worthiness. Meditate on each of these aspects ascribed to Christ our Savior; power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise. There is no comparison, only God is worthy, what a glorious joy it is the worship Him!