



The reading of God's word.  
Prayer

Revelation 22:8

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.

John didn't just fall down in awe before the angel.

Revelation 22:8

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, **I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel** who had been showing them to me.

John fell down to worship at the feet of the angel.

Why would John do that?

He knew that the people of God are to worship God alone.

That was why he was on the island of Patmos – he had refused to worship the emperor and to offer sacrifices to him.

So why did John do what he did?

And by the way... this was not the first time.

John did the same thing in chapter 19.

Revelation 19:9-10

The angel said to [John], "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

**At this I fell at his feet to worship him.**

God created the angels as personal beings of great beauty and power... and tasked them to serve him and humanity. Because the holy angels live in the visible presence of God, they are saturated with the glory of God and reflect his majesty...



... like the moon reflects the light of the brilliant sun.

Can you imagine?

The reflected glory of God was so great... as seen by John in that angel... that he fell to the ground in worship!

When the followers of Jesus are transformed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye; at the return of Jesus...we will then forever live in the visible presence of God and his glory will saturate us... as it does his holy angels.

While John himself was overcome, there was no confusion in the mind of the angel who spoke with John. The angel said...

**Revelation 22:9a**

**"Do not do that!**

**I am a fellow servant with you and your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this book."**

The angel was able to say this to John.... because he knew who he was in light of who God is.

**Revelation 22:9a**

“Do not do that!

**I am a fellow servant** with you and your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this book.”

Here, yet again, the Bible reminds us of a truth that is central to Christianity. For the followers of Jesus our primary identity is like that of the angel. We are servants and we live to serve God and others in the name of Jesus. We live to point others to the glory of the One who saved us and to whom we’ve given our allegiance.

The angel reminded John and in turn all who follow Jesus...

**Revelation 22:9a**

“Do not do that! I am a fellow servant

**with you and your fellow prophets and with all** who keep the words of this book.”

...of the fellowship and belonging we have, not only with the God who is three in One, but with all other believers.

We belong to a community of people which Hebrew 12:1 and Revelation 7:9 describes as...



The number of those who belong to God is so vast they cannot be counted.

The angel identified an important characteristic of God's people.

**Revelation 22:9a**

**"Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this book."**

God's people live under the sound of his voice.

If God says it, we do it.

And we obey God because we love him.

And we love him because he first loved us.

The angel reminded John of an important command.

**Revelation 22:9b**

**"Worship God!"**

While this was a specific command directed at John for that particular moment, this command also identifies a primary application and response of God's people to the truth revealed in the Revelation... worship God.

It is true that the book of Revelation impresses upon the followers of Jesus that this world is not our permanent home.

It is true that it teaches us that Jesus is in control... of all things seen and unseen.

It is true that it reveals to us that God will make all things new.

The truth in this book encourages us to live fearlessly.

But above all – the Revelation urges God's people... to worship him.

Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble.... in this world we will be pressured and tempted to love and to offer our devotion to things other than God.

How do we stay faithful?  
How do we finish well?  
How do we not shipwreck our faith?



Look again at what the angel said to John...

**Revelation 22:9b**  
**“Worship God!”**

The angel said this because he knew that all human beings worship.



Every person... worships... because God created us this way.



Every human soul gravitates to something / to someone it deems to be precious, beautiful, worthy.

To this “something” or “someone”... every person expresses love and devotion, appreciation and gratitude.

The reason the human heart is drawn to awe and wonder... is because we were created to have God at the center of our lives.



Despite the fact that we enter this life disconnected from God, and even though for a time we may intellectually deny the existence of God or his claim upon our life, and even though our heart for a time may love lesser things or refuse to admit our need of God... there is a remembrance... in our souls of the One who created us... who gave to us life.

And it is this remembrance that stirs in us... a homesickness.



This is a common testimony of those who follow Jesus... when God pursued us, and we turned to him, and received Jesus and believed in him... it felt like we'd come home... that we'd finally found the One we'd been searching for and the place where we belonged.

It is this, gratitude and love that fuels our worship....



The glorious and gracious King who always is at the center of all things, is now at the center of our lives.

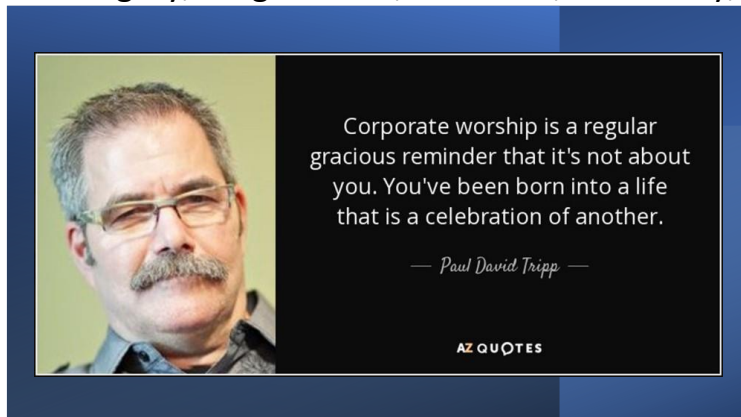
His love is lavished upon us and poured into our hearts by his Spirit.

How can we not lavishly love him in return?

I love what Francis Chan says about the person of God...



We can never exaggerate the love of God, nor his mercy, his grace, his justice, his sovereignty, his goodness, his wrath, his beauty, his wisdom and his purity.



This is why, our worship of God together, is a celebration of him, not us.



But what does the worship of God entail?

To a woman he met at a well in a town called Sychar, Jesus said,

**John 4:23-24**

... a time is coming  
and has now come when  
the **true worshipers** will worship the Father  
in the Spirit and in truth,  
for they are **the kind of worshipers**  
the Father seeks.  
God is spirit, and **his worshipers** must worship  
in the Spirit and in truth.

What in Jesus' estimation characterizes true worship?

Look again at the passage.

**John 4:23-24**

... a time is coming  
and has now come when  
the true worshipers will worship the Father  
**in the Spirit and in truth,**  
for they are the kind of worshipers  
the Father seeks.  
God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship  
**in the Spirit and in truth.**

The fact that Jesus stated this phrase... "in the Spirit and in truth"... twice... speaks of its importance.

True worship of God... is done in the Spirit... and in truth.

Our worship together is done in the Spirit.

- When we gather weekly, we always welcome God's Spirit to be among us.
- We always invite the Spirit to manifest to us the presence of God.
- We always ask the Spirit to shower grace upon us.
- We always ask him for his help that we might wholeheartedly worship God.
- We always ask him to teach us.

Our worship together is rooted in truth.

John Piper writes...

**“Strong affections for God  
rooted in truth are the bone and  
marrow of biblical worship.”**

John Piper

**Every aspect of our worship together ...**

- Call to worship
- Testimonies
- Songs
- Creeds and declarations  
of what we believe
- Offering
- Confession
- Baptism
- Prayers of the people
- Teaching
- The Lord's Table
- The Blessing



**...is saturated by God's word.**

And when we read our call to worship; when we sing our songs; when we declare the creeds and what we believe; when we give our offerings; when we make confession; when we pray our prayers; when we open the word and come under its authority; when we come to the Table, when we baptize, when we give and receive the blessing... **we do so with great passion**... for the One who is Three – the Father, Son and Spirit.

Do you realize... that when we come near to God, praising him and thanking him and responding to him, Colossians 3:16 says we also teach and admonish one another with all wisdom?

Your worship impacts and teaches the person beside you, behind you, in front of you, across from you... about the glory and worth of God... as does theirs impact and teach you.

With this in mind, Don Whitney says,

**“There’s an element of worship and Christianity that cannot be experienced in private worship or by watching worship.**

**There are some graces and blessings that God gives only in the “meeting together” with other believers.”**

Don Whitney

This is why for the followers of Jesus, being together with God’s people in person, is a key priority of our daily week.

There are graces and blessings that are only given when we come together before God.

Martin Luther described a blessing and a grace that came to him when he worshiped with God’s people. He said...

**“...in the church  
when the congregation is gathered,  
a fire is kindled  
in my heart.”**

Martin Luther

In this present time, there are many factors that can cause our passion for God to diminish – illness, stress, work, family challenges, to name but a few.

Do you identify with what Martin Luther said? I do.

Our hearts regularly need to have a fire of love for God kindled within them.

And we praise God... this is a blessing given to us from God when we worship him together.

The Spirit awakens, that is, he stirs up our love for God as we recount and remember him and his many mercies.

Asaph the psalm writer went through a season...when his heart grew cold.  
In Psalm 73, Asaph wrote of being greatly troubled, and of being tempted to give up on his faith.

But everything changed for Asaph when “he entered the sanctuary of God.”

In the temple, with the people of God Asaph realized...

**Psalm 73:25-26, 28**

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever...  
It is good for me to be near God.  
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge,  
I will tell of all your deeds.

When we find ourselves to be discouraged and spiritually lethargic as Asaph was...  
it is a common thing for a battle to take place within us that endeavors to  
persuade us to withdraw and stay away from worshiping God... with God’s  
people.

What we need in such times is the awakening that the worship of God provides –  
the remembering that...

**Psalm 73:25-26, 28**

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever...  
**It is good for me to be near God.**  
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge,  
I will tell of all your deeds.

Nothing can take the place of God in our life.  
He is good... and it is good to be near him.

Yes, God meets us in our private worship.  
But so often, God meet us when we gather before him with his church.

Tim Keller says...

There are times when the Holy Spirit takes the scripture read, the prayer spoken, the song sung, the truth preached and presses it right to the point of our need, and not merely informs our Christian walk, **but heals us in that moment."**

Tim Keller

The angel told John ... worship God.

Jesus told the woman at the well... worship God in Spirit and in truth.



O God, when my faith gets overladen with dust, blow it clean with the wind of your Spirit. When my habits of obedience get stiff and rusty, anoint them with the oil of your Spirit. Restore the enthusiasm of my first love for you.

— Eugene H. Peterson —

AZ QUOTES