

Worship Lesson 1 3Q 2011

INTRODUCTION to the Study Guide

The first paragraph quotes the First Angel's message of Revelation 14, then second paragraph, "First, John..."

Thoughts?

What do you understand to be the everlasting gospel? Does everlasting, eternal, mean only for eternity future? Or is the good news an eternal good news that was true for eternity past? When Lucifer rebelled in heaven was it true that Jesus had died for humans? Was the gospel in existence then?

What is the eternal good news? Would it be good news that we get eternal life with God if God is like Satan in character?

Is the gospel that we get to live forever with God, or the ultimate good news is that God is not like Satan has alleged?

"Foundational then to our worship needs to be Jesus' death in our behalf."

Is this the most foundational focus of our worship – Jesus dying for us? Or is there something more foundational?

What was foundational to the worship of Adam and Eve before they sinned? Did the foundation of their worship change after sin? Did Christ's death build a new foundation or was Christ's death a further revelation of the foundation of true worship which already existed?

- This is life eternal that they might *know you, the only true God* and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent. John 17:3
- Jesus mission was to reveal the Father John 17:5

- 2 Cor 10:3-5 We wage war against everything that sets itself up against the *knowledge of God* and take captive every thought to Jesus Christ
- Romans 1:18-35 when we exchange the truth of God for a lie the mind becomes depraved, futile and darkened
- John 14:9 anyone who has seen Christ has seen the Father
- But the plan of redemption had a yet **broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man**. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; **but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe**. To this result of His great sacrifice--its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man--the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me." John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin. {PP 68.2}
- It was in order that the heavenly universe might see the conditions of the covenant of redemption that Christ bore the penalty in behalf of the human race. **The throne of Justice must be eternally and forever made secure, even tho the race be wiped out, and another creation populate the earth**. By the sacrifice Christ was about to make, all doubts would be forever settled, and the human race would be saved if they would return to their allegiance. Christ alone could restore honor to God's government. The cross of Calvary would be looked upon by the unfallen worlds, by the heavenly universe, by Satanic agencies, by the fallen race, and **every mouth would be stopped**. In making His infinite sacrifice Christ would **exalt and honor the law. He would make known the exalted character of God's government, which**

could not in any way be changed to meet man in his sinful condition. {ST, July 12, 1899 par. 2}

Who is able to describe the last scenes of Christ's life on earth, His trial in the judgment hall, His crucifixion? Who witnessed these scenes?--The heavenly universe, God the Father, Satan and his angels. Wonderful events took place in the betrayal of Christ... {ST, July 12, 1899 par. 3}

... The enmity of the apostate against the Commander of all heaven must be seen. It must be shown that Satan's mercy is cruelty. What a battle was this, between Christ and Satan! It was waged up to the very time of the resurrection, yea, up to the time of the ascension. **Then it was transferred to Christ's followers, and today Satan wars against them.** {ST, July 12, 1899 par. 4}

What is foundational to our worship? It is the truth about the character of God, His nature, methods, principles and being!

What kind of war is it? And how does Satan wage it against Christ's followers today?

Third paragraph of the introduction states, "When we approach God in worship as a kind of buddy or pal, we degrade Him and place ourselves in a role in which we do not belong. Worship should be permeated by a sense of reverence and awe for our God, an attitude that will give us the humility and surrender so needed for true worship."

Thoughts?

What is another name for a buddy or pal? Comrade, chum, mate or friend?

What did Jesus say?

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

What about one of the founders of our church, what did she say?

If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. **Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend.** He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet, joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. . . . Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan. FLB 226

Thoughts?

Can one have reverence and awe and also friendship, be pals? Or are these mutually exclusive?

Read the next paragraph, “We are also told...”

Yes, our worship, our hearts and minds must be focused on God. Is this what the Revelation text primarily means when it says to give glory to God, that we, in our worship services talk about Him?

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that **I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. ²³ **I will show the holiness of my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. **Then the nations will know that I am the LORD**, declares the Sovereign LORD, **when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.**”

²⁴ “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;** I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.** ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and

move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
Ezekiel 36:22-27

Thoughts? Don't we give glory to God by allowing Him to restore His character in us and therefore we reveal His character in the way we live?

Read next paragraph, "We are told..." thoughts?

Does Revelation 14 speak of Christ sitting on the throne in Judgment or of God Himself being judged? What did Jesus say?

"As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. John 12:47,48

What does this mean? That the truth of our own condition is what judges us. If all of us are infected with a terminal illness, and a remedy is offered, and while all of us claim to have taken the remedy, only some of us have – do we have to have someone sit in judgment to determine who has really taken the remedy, or will the truth of our condition reveal itself?

Then what is the judgment of God in Revelation 14 talking about?

What did the war in heaven, initiated by Lucifer, start over? Lucifer alleged God could not be trusted. How did Satan spread his rebellion to earth? He deceived our first parents in regard to God's trustworthiness.

We are fighting a thought war and are to demolish everything that sets itself up against "the knowledge of God!" (2Cor 10:5). And in Romans 3:4 Paul tells us that God is the One on trial, the One accused and the One who will be proved innocent:

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when **thou art judged.** KJV

May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, “That You may be justified in Your words, And **prevail when You are judged.**” NASB

Certainly not! God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, “You must be shown to be right when you speak; **you must win your case when you are being tried.**” GNT

No! God will continue to be true even when every person is false. As the Scriptures say: “So you will be shown to be right when you speak, **and you will win your case.**” NCV

As we move into this quarterly let us remember the central focus of all our worship is the truth about God, as revealed in Christ!

LESSON 1 Worship in Genesis: Two Classes of Worshipers

SABBATH

Read both paragraphs, “It has been...” thoughts?

Is this the real lesson of Cain and Abel? Was Cain worshipping self? Was Cain bringing offerings to an altar with an idol of himself? Or while there was something amiss with Cain, was he still presenting his offering to God?

In MONDAY’s lesson it asks what made the difference between Cain and Abel’s offerings to God?

So what was the problem with Cain’s offering? Was Cain trying to buy God? Was Cain trying to “work” his way into heaven, as is often the case? Or was something else going on in this process?

Remember the story of the Pharisee and publican who came to worship when Jesus was on earth? One was pompous and boastful the other humble and needful? Is this the difference?

The **Pharisee and the publican represent two great classes** into which those who come to worship God are divided. Their first two representatives are found in the first two children that were born into the world. **Cain thought himself righteous, and he came to God with a thank offering only. He made no confession of sin, and acknowledged no need of mercy.** But Abel came with the blood that pointed to the Lamb of God. **He came as a sinner, confessing himself lost;** his only hope was the unmerited love of God. The Lord had respect to his offering, but to Cain and his offering He had not respect. The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3. {COL 152.1}

What was the difference? Cain refused to accept he was sick, terminal, dying. If a patient refuses to accept he is sick, will he participate in the treatment plan? This is what the problem is in this situation. Those who think they are okay and those who recognize their need!

Remember the old movie 2001 a space odyssey? In the movie HAL was an artificial intelligence, computer, which ran the ship. On the way to Jupiter the astronauts kept dying. When the last two finally figured out what was going on, that HAL was killing them. The computer said that he was perfect, that computers never make mistakes, that anytime any error happens with a computer it is always traced back to a human being. In other words, I am perfect, but even if I did make a mistake it was because you, my creator made me this way.

This is exactly, what Cain and the class of the lost say. There is nothing wrong with us, but even if there is, it is your fault God because you made us this way. This is Lucifer's allegations, that God is the one at fault.

God could not accept Cain's sacrifice because Cain's heart was closed to God's remedy to sin! So, where was the barrier between God and Cain? Was the barrier, as some have alleged, God's wrath which needed a blood sacrifice to remove it, or was the barrier Cain's condition and closed heart and refusal to accept God's remedy?

SUNDAY

Speaks about worship in Eden and references the Sabbath – what role did the Sabbath have in Eden?

- Physical rest
- Church attendance
- Reminder of who the creator is?
- A time to fellowship with God?
- An evidence of God's character, which is worthy of our worship?

How is the Sabbath connected to worship?

One aspect of the Sabbath is to remind us of God as creator, and God's creatorship is one of the reasons often given in Scripture for our worship:

The **duty to worship God** is based upon the fact that he is the Creator, and that to him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, his claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, **there is cited the evidence of his creative power.** "All the gods of the nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens." [PS. 96:5.] "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things." "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; . . . I am Jehovah; and there is none else." [ISA. 40:25, 26; 45:18.] Says the psalmist, "Know ye that Jehovah, he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves." "O come, let

us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." [PS. 100:3; 95:6.] And the holy beings who worship God in Heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to him, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things." [REV. 4: 11.] {GC88 436.2}

Why is this issue emphasized over and over again in Scripture? Thoughts? What is the significance? In a post fall world had the question of who created us arisen? Has the truth of our origins become obscured by human theories? Was this true in Eden?

So while, in our fallen world, we are thankful for the Sabbath as a reminder of our Awesome Creator, what was the purpose of the Sabbath in Eden?

Which member of the Godhead is our Creator? Does this have any significance? Why? With whom did Satan allege equality? Is it important to worship our Creator merely because He has the power to create – in other words, does creative power alone make God worthy of our worship?

- “What is the deepest in God? His power? No, for power could not make him what we mean when we say *God*. A being whose essence was only power would be such a negation of the divine that no righteous worship could be offered him; his service would be only fear.” George MacDonald, *Discovering the Character of God*, p. 29.

Thoughts? Is something more than creative power alone necessary to be worthy of our worship?

Did Satan allege God did not have creative power? Or did Satan allege God uses His power arbitrarily and selfishly?

Did Satan allege, like Hal, that if we do anything wrong it is because God made us this way so the real problem is with God?

The lesson points to Revelation 14:7 “worship him who made...” emphasizing the reality that we need to worship only the creator.

But according to Revelation in addition to being our Creator, what makes Him *worthy* of our worship?

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!” Rev 5:12

What significance is it to recognize Jesus is our Creator and our Creator let us kill Him and wouldn't use His power to stop us?

Isn't it the selfless character of Christ, proven beyond question, which makes our Creator worthy of our worship?

Is there a difference between duty – and the reason God said to worship Him? Does God say to worship Him because it is our duty?

The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely--because he is required to do so--will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God. {COL 97.3}

Why does God say we are to worship Him? While it is our duty to worship God, why is it our duty? It is true God is Creator, Sovereign, All Powerful, but is this why God says to worship Him?

TUESDAY

The lesson points out that from Cain came one type of worshipper and from Seth another. These are referred to in the Bible as the

Son's of God and the daughters of men. And it points out that eventually they began to intermarry, and this led to degradation in worship, which resulted in degradation in character and eventually the flood.

What lessons do we learn from this history?

WEDNESDAY

Read last paragraph, "As we have seen..." thoughts? What was the purpose of God asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Was God ever going to have Abraham go through with it?

Does this stand as a representation of God killing Jesus? What is the purpose?

Abraham wanted to see God, to know Him, to understand Him, and in this task Abraham was brought more closely in union with God's heart than in any other aspect of Abraham's life. Abraham could empathize with what God would be going through when Jesus died. God did send His Son as the way and means of saving mankind and bringing sin in the universe to an end.

THURSDAY

Last paragraph, "Worship is not..." thoughts? What is God's attitude toward us? What does He want from us?

Does God want us in the closest unity and intimacy of friendship or to keep a formal Royal separation between us?

Are we not children of God, part of the heavenly royal family?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1 and 3