

What Happens When a Church Worships | Part 7

Lesson 9

Revelation 14-16

April 2, 2023

Acceptable Worship

INTRODUCTION

God, alone, is worthy of our praise as He is the creator of all things. Everything that exists is from His hand. As such, He is the only one who is truly deserving of all of the glory. We worship God because He deserves it.

In these three chapters of Revelation, we see examples of worship that is true and good, bringing glory to God: songs of praise, complete devotion, self-sacrifice, and living in righteousness. They follow the Lamb of God by exemplifying the life of Christ on earth in all they do.

We also see examples of behavior that is definitely not in line with bringing glory to the Almighty God but, instead, glorifies the creation and even the corruption of the creation. And, we see the consequences brought about by rebellion against God. It makes sense, then, to understand and discern the proper means of worshiping the Almighty Creator God.

Memory verse: "Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."—Revelation 15:4

Pray, and read Revelation chapters 14-16. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. John sees 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. Whom do they follow wherever He goes? (Revelation 14:4)
2. What is the specific call to worship proclaimed by the second angel? (Revelation 14:7)
3. Who is said to be standing beside the “sea of glass”, singing the song of Moses? What significant thing did they accomplish? (Revelation 15:2)
4. With what are the golden bowls filled that are handed to the seven angels? (Revelation 15:7)
5. On what things do the angels pour the bowls of wrath? (Revelation 16:2-17)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. What is the significance of the 144,000 having the Lamb's name and His Father's name written on their foreheads? What virtues are attributed to these people? (Revelation 7:1-17, 14:1-5)

2. What are we as the people of God to have and do during the trials brought about by the three angels (Revelation 14:12)? How is this applicable to worship? (John 14:15; Hebrews 6:12; Revelation 13:10)

3. What are the two harvests that occur, and how do they compare? Who is doing each harvest, what are the results, and which harvest has the better outcome? What can be understood about these two harvests as it relates to those who are faithful and endure versus those who are faithless and rebel? (Revelation 14:14-20)

4. The plagues and bowls of wrath are judgments from God upon the earth and those who rebel, and they are severe. In the midst of this, what do the people refuse to do, and what does this mean about God's love, His patience, His desire to redeem us all, and our choice? (Revelation 2:21, 16:11)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. In what ways do you find yourself facing obstacles to worship, whether time or energy or frame of mind? What are some positive mental reframes that you can think of to challenge these roadblocks?

2. God will always hear the prayer of those who reach up and call for His help. How can you use this fact to counter thoughts that might hinder worship or prayer? Do you worship God on a daily basis? What are some methods of worshiping that you use?

3. Pray, and recommit your life to following Christ. Begin by giving God the praise and glory only He deserves, and pray for greater desire to follow and worship Him each day.