

Worship: The Key to Living the Abundant Christian Life
Psalm 19:1-6; Isaiah 6:1-8
Part One

Jesus told His disciples in **John 10:10**, “**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**”

So let me ask you this question. Do you believe these words of Christ? Do you believe that Christ came so that we might have life and have it abundantly? I would hope that your answer would be yes!

So if this is what we believe and if we in fact have received this gift of life, should we expect the abundance of that life to be apparent to us as well as to others? I believe that the answer again would have to be yes!

So how might the abundance of this life that we have received from Christ be measured? Should the abundance of this life that we have received from Christ be measured in terms of dollars and cents? No! Should the abundance of this life that we have received from Christ be measured in terms of our physical health? No! Should the abundance of this life that we have received from Christ be measured in terms of our worldly success? No! The measure of the abundance of the life that we have received from Christ is the life of Christ Himself, for it is His life that we have received.

It is a life that can provide us an abiding inner joy. It is a life that can provide us satisfaction for the deepest longing of our souls. It is a life that can provide us with an unwavering strength to stand for righteousness in the midst of the most horrific circumstances while at the same time being able to offer up praise to God with thanksgiving. So if we are going to measure the abundance of our lives, let us measure our lives based on these kinds of things, for these kinds of things are the manifestations of Christ's life.

Now let me go even further. What I have just shared with you about the kind of abundance that is available to us in Christ in this life pales in comparison to the abundance that is yet before us in the next life, when we in Christ will enter into that imperishable and undefiled inheritance that will not fade away that God has reserved for us in glory.

We were not saved to live meager lives. We were not saved to live defeated lives. We were not saved to live unfruitful lives. No! We were saved and given life so that we might experience the abundance of Christ's life.

Unfortunately, we often fail to enjoy this abundance, not because it is not there in Christ to be enjoyed but rather because we, for whatever reason, are not choosing by faith to bow before God, the Lord of glory, in worship. This is why.

Worship is the key to abundant living! Worship is the key to unleashing the abundance of the Christian life, for worship is the key to getting our hearts right before God. And if our hearts are right before God, then the Spirit of God will fill us and the life of Christ will flow through us to the praise of His glory as we day by day are transformed into the very image of Christ, not by the strength of our might, but through the strength and power of His might, the strength and power of our triune God.

Over the weeks ahead I will be seeking to drive this point home in a series of messages that I have entitled "Worship: The Key to Living the Abundant Christian Life" that will be done in conjunction with a diagram, that I have entitled "Living above the Line."

And what is my hope for this series of messages, as well as for this diagram, as I try to bring home to you the importance of worship? My hope is that God will use this series of messages and this diagram as it unfolds week by week not only to provide us with a better understanding of the dynamics of a worship filled life, but God would also use this series of messages and this diagram to fuel our appetite for worship and that our appetite for worship would become so voracious that each and every facet of our lives would become an extension of our worship and an expression of our love and affection for God.

This is my hope for this diagram as well as for this series of messages that I have entitled "Worship: The Key to Living the Abundant Christian Life."

So, what is the question that we will be seeking to answer throughout this series of messages and as we construct this diagram piece by piece? What biblical truths will be highlighted in this series of messages and in this

diagram to support the belief that worship is the key to living the abundant Christian life? This is the question that we will be seeking to answer.

So, what is the first biblical truth? The God of heaven, our creator, is alone worthy of worship (Psalm 19:1-6; Isaiah 6:1-8).

So how will we illustrate this truth on the diagram that we will be constructing on the back of our note page? We will illustrate this truth in this way.

So, what is the first truth that we are presently highlighting? The first truth that we are highlighting is that the God of heaven, our creator, is alone worthy of worship.

So how can we know this? First of all, God has revealed this to us through his creation (Psalm 19:1-6). Theologians call this form of revelation “general” revelation. The Bible speaks of this kind of revelation in numerous places and one of those places is **Psalm 19:1-6.**

So now let me read these verses for you. **“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (2) Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. (3) There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. (4) Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, (5) which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; it rejoices as a strong man to run his course. (6) Its rising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the other end of the them; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.”**

These are obviously beautiful words. And who wrote these words? King David wrote these words. And what was the inspiration for these words? God’s celestial handiwork was the inspiration for these words.

And when might that handiwork have been first impressed upon David? I would imagine that it was first impressed upon him as a young shepherd boy in the pastureland of Palestine as he watched over his sheep, as he in the quiet moments of that shepherding looked up into the sky and contemplated

what he saw. And where did this contemplation lead him? We really do not have to guess, based on the words that we have just read in **Psalms 19:1-6**.

David's contemplation of what he saw in the heavens as a young shepherd boy led him to write this Psalm of praise to the creator of this universe. And why did he do this? He did this because he understood something very basic. And what was this basic understanding? His basic understanding was that he understood that he was only able to enjoy the beauty and magnificence of what he saw in the heavens because someone greater than the heavens put it there. And who was that someone? The someone who put it there was God. This is why David started out this Psalm with these words, **"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."**

But David did not stop there. He went to say, **"Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."** David in essence is saying that this glorious declaration of the heavens never ceases. The Hebrew word for **"pours forth"** means **"bubbling up"** and pictures a natural spring that continually gives a fresh water supply. In other words, there is neither pause nor break in the heavenly declaration that there is a God, who is greater than the heavens, who is more beautiful than the heavens, more magnificent than the heavens, and more powerful than the heavens.

This is the message of the heavens, which is the message of creation, a message that should be heeded. Let me read for you **Romans 1:20**. **"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."**

So did David through creation see God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature? Yes! And did David hear the heavens declaring the glory of God? Yes! And how did David respond? He responded by writing this Psalm to God as an expression of praise.

This is the kind response that should be expected from everyone everywhere. And why is this? Let us go and read **verse 4**.

So how else can we know that there is a God in heaven who alone is worthy of worship? God has revealed this to us in His Word (Isaiah 6:1-4). Theologians call this form of revelation “special” revelation.

So does the Bible actually teach us that there is a God in heaven that is worthy of worship? If we have been a believer for any length of time and studied the Scriptures, even superficially, the answer to this question is clear. Of course the Bible teaches us that there is a God in heaven that is worthy of worship. And in fact I believe that many of you, if not most of you, would be able to quickly turn to passages in the Scriptures that would support this very point.

Of those passages, which are multitudinous, there are certain ones that drive this point home to us perhaps more than others. For me one of those passages is **Isaiah 6:1-4**. So let me read this passage for you, which records for us the words of Isaiah the prophet. **“In the year of King’s Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’ (4) And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.”**

So, in the year of Uzziah’s death, was Isaiah privileged to get a glimpse into God’s heavenly throne room? Yes! And what did he see? This is what he saw. He saw God sitting on His throne in glory, the central and only object of worship, surrounded by heavenly courtiers—angelic beings—the seraphim who were calling out to one another, **“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.”** This is what Isaiah was privileged to see and he has recorded for us what he saw in this passage.

So now let me ask you this question. Did this glimpse of God on His throne in glory, being worshipped by seraphim, leave Isaiah unmoved? No! It did not leave him unmoved. And Isaiah made this very clear to his readers in **verses 5** of the same chapter. So now let me read this verse for you and what does it say? **“Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’”** In that moment Isaiah was

crushed under the load of his own unworthiness in light of what he saw and heard and understood, and understood that he could not continue to stand there in God's presence without being judged. What did he say? **“Woe is me for I am ruined.”**

In light of what he was seeing, Isaiah was dramatically impacted by his unworthiness and the unworthiness of his people and how deserving they were of judgment. But judgment is not what Isaiah received rather he received an expression of God's loving kindness toward him.

May we by God's grace be continuously reminded through His creation and through His word that He alone is worthy of **worship.**