



## river west church

### Why We Worship (part 2)

Revelation 5:8-14

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#### **We Worship to Say “Yes” to the Reality of God**

Worship is an act of faith in which we say “yes” to the reality of God. That’s why we gather together as believers. We have come to say “yes” to God. We open our bibles and we open our hearts. We take in the truth about God as proclaimed in God’s Word. But that isn’t enough. That’s not true worship. Worship is what we do when we respond from our hearts to the truth of God.

Revelation 4 reveals the pattern of worship in heaven: they see, they say and they surrender. The pattern is revealed, not just to show us what worship is like in Heaven. It’s so that we might know how to be worshippers right here and right now, even in the midst of the turmoil of our lives in this world. So, are you a worshipper? Have you come to say “yes” to the reality of God?

The reality of God is powerfully revealed in Revelation 4 and 5. Chapter 4 is about the throne of God while Chapter 5 is about the Lamb of God. These two chapters must always be viewed together to see the true reality of God. The focus of chapter 4 is on God as the sovereign, almighty creator of all things. The focus of chapter 5 is on Jesus, the Lamb of God, our perfect victorious Redeemer. God the creator and God the Redeemer are the two great realities we must always see and the two great themes of Christian worship. But we must do more than just see them. We must say/sing them, and we must surrender our lives to our King and Redeemer. That is true worship.

#### **We Worship Because We “See, Say and Surrender” to the Reality of Jesus Christ our Lord**

Revelation 4 and 5 is all about the build-up to the pinnacle moment. In chapter 4 John sees a glorious throne. The scene is huge in scope – completely over the top. But that is just prep for chapter 5. Chapter 5 brings us an up-close focus. We see the hand of God, a scroll (the scroll of human destiny), and then a lamb (as though it was slain). Chapter 5 gives us a hyper focus on Jesus. This is the pinnacle moment for John and for us. This is where it all comes together. It’s not enough to see the sovereign power and majesty of God our creator. We must also see the glorious love, redemption and victory of God our Savior Jesus Christ. This is the heart and soul of our Christian faith.

Note carefully how Jesus is described. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David. This anchors the vision in real history. This takes us back to the book of Genesis (49:9) and the book of Isaiah (11:1). This reminds us that the vision is about the incarnation of God into our world in real time and space. This is about the real and already accomplished fulfillment of God’s promises. Yes, God the sovereign almighty creator has the power to do that (see Revelation 4!). He also has a plan and he is working it.

Note carefully what Jesus has done. He has won the victory, He has ransomed us, and He has made us a kingdom of priests unto God (5:5, 5:9 & 5:10). All of this has happened through the Cross of Christ and His resurrection. This is the Gospel. And because this is the true reality of God, Jesus Christ must be the object of our worship. He IS at the center of the picture and he must be at the center of our worship and our lives. We worship to acknowledge this. We worship to keep Jesus at the center of our faith and our focus. When we worship, we re-align ourselves with reality.

#### **We Worship to Fix Our Point of View**

It’s hard to know what to think about life sometimes. Life is hard. It can seem like chaos, or feel like no one is at the helm. Events don’t always seem to make sense. We want answers. We want the puzzle pieces to all fit together.

That’s exactly the way it is in the Book of Revelation. As things begin to unfold, it seems like chaos. But the truth is that God IS on His throne and he DOES have a plan! And take note...all the intense events that are revealed in the Book of Revelation come AFTER this vision and THROUGH the Lamb of God. That means God wants us to keep this vision before us for the rest of the book. We are to fix our gaze on Jesus. When we do, Jesus will fix our point of view! The only way to put it all in perspective is to see it all in light of the Lamb of

God. Judgment united with mercy and sacrifice. Persecution, weakness and even death all turned to ultimate victory in the victory of the Lamb who was slain, but triumphed. This is our point of view for Revelation. And not only for Revelation, but for all of life – right here, right now. This is how we fix our point of view, even in the tough times of daily life in a broken world.

But how do we fix our gaze on Jesus? We worship. We see, we say, we surrender to the reality of Jesus our Savior. Will you say yes to Jesus today?