

Week of April 13, 2008

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Monday

Rev. 7:9 there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, before the throne...

One voice simply is not enough to give Him praise. Worship demands the united voice of God's people, any less does Him dishonor. Can you think that God's glory is satisfied or His honor properly upheld by a lone voice of praise? No! God deserves more. That is why we are called, even compelled to join together in weekly worship – join together with all the saints and worship the Lord.

Tuesday

Rev. 5:13 "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

Catch this! As you come boldly before the throne of grace, you enter the throne room of God with all the saints past and present. Why is this exciting? Because when I join the saints to worship I am closer to my family than at any other time. My dad is there worshiping with me, my granddaddy and grandmother, too. When I come to worship I am joining all my wonderful friends who died, no who are alive in Christ. There is nowhere where we should feel so connected with those who have gone before us as in a service of worship.

Wednesday

Eph. 2:4-6 God, who is rich in mercy made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with him and *seated us with him in the heavenly places* ...

We use the term "heaven" not to describe some place in the sky, but to designate the dimension of God's presence. Therefore when we speak of God's presence among us we are confessing the reality of divine intersections between heaven and earth. The burning bush, Jacob's ladder, the Holy of holies, the manger, the transfiguration, the cross: all of these are intersections of heaven. What is more, God's indwelling Spirit brings the realm of God – heaven - to the life of every believer. He has placed heaven in our heart. Eternal life resides in you from the moment you receive Jesus as Savior.

Thursday

Heb. 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us

Check your worship, not your worship style but the nature of your worship. Do you clearly enter weekly into heartfelt intentional worship before Almighty God? Do others (your family in particular) see you encounter God in worship in such a way that they will be able to envision you worshipping before God's throne in heaven once you are gone? Or will it test their sanctified imagination if they envision you there worshipping with the saints? Check your worship and make every service a time of heartfelt intentional worship.

Friday

Heb. 8:5 They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one;

A taste of eternity: that is what worship (real worship) is, a taste of eternity. Somehow when men and women join together in genuine, intentional, heartfelt worship the gap between heaven and earth is bridged. Believers live in two realms, the heavenly and the earthly. The scripture is clear on that. But our roots to this life run deep and our connection to the heavenly, though growing, is willowy and full of shadows. In worship somehow the earthly grows wonderfully dimmer and the heavenly gloriously brighter. God invites us to come and taste eternity each week as we worship.