

ETERNAL, NEVER CEASING WORSHIP

By Roy Goodlet

I want to introduce to you one of the most beautiful scripture texts in the Bible. Revelation 5. In heaven there was a scroll. The scroll had writing on the inside and the outside, and it was sealed with seven seals. From what I have read, the fact that the writing was on the inside and the outside meant that this scroll was a document of supreme importance, and the one who opened it had to have authority to do so. To summarize what was written, it was God's universal plan for the destiny of the world.

A mighty angel shouted out a challenge for anyone to come forth that was worthy to open the great scroll and its seals, but no one in heaven or on earth could be found who was worthy enough to do so. And John, the writer, said that he began to cry because no one could be found. The text says that he wept and wept, but one of the elders told him to stop his weeping. He told him to look and see that there was One who was worthy to open the scroll.

Verse 6, "Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne..."

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be like a lamb. A slain Lamb. Isaiah 53:7, "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter." This was Jesus. The only One who was worthy to open the scroll.

Notice what the elder said. This Lamb was standing. This is important. This slain Lamb was alive.

Then the praise time began. Together they sang and were of one mind. The slain Lamb, Jesus, brought everyone together in one voice of praise. Their thoughts were on the One who gave them eternal life and brought them to where they were. Heaven.

Why do you attend worship services at your church? Out of habit? Because it is expected of you? Worship is more than just singing a few songs and enduring a sermon. It is a time we become humble. It is impossible to worship without humility.

Who is God to You? Is He real? Is He just a concept or an idea? If so, then there is no need to worship. I would rather worship a personality whom I know loves me, and my worship is the time I tell Him how much I love Him.

That's when the celebration begins! It no longer becomes a dry recital of words or spiritless singing of hymns or choruses. It is about the attitude of your heart. Worship is the way that all those that have been redeemed by His blood express their thanksgiving.

Worship, and our whole Christian life is all about being blown away by God's love when in His kindness He died for our sins. It is about the excitement of knowing the promises of God's word and the end of the story. Worship is not about me, and it is not about you. What is important in worship is what God gets out of it. Will God be pleased?

*Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ.
Email him at royfcc@yahoo.com.*