

*“The Worth, Worthiness and Worship of the Lamb” Revelation 5:8-14*

<sup>8</sup> Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,  
And to open its seals;  
For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

<sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power  
Be to Him who sits on the throne,  
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup> Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Revelation 5:8–14 (NKJV)

*The title of my sermon to you today is - "The Worth, Worthiness and Worship of the Lamb"*

*It is based on the idea that worth and worship are (or at least should be) connected!*

*How do we ascribe worth to a thing or a person? By our talk, by praise? By actions? My mom ascribed a great deal of worth to Pierre who is now my cat. Why was Pierre so valuable to my mom? In her lonely days he was there for her. He was present, by her side, on the arm of her chair, more than myself, more than my mom's sister, more than my brothers, more than doctors or nurses! She said he was her best cat ever!*

*When I was in seminary in Jackson MS, I worked as a custodian at Irby Electric. We cleaned their office building. Workers at Irby were encouraged to decorate their offices. Many were decorated with pictures of family! Many were decorated with sports team jerseys and pictures of athletes, some had Bibles and Bible verse posters. What each employ valued seemed obvious by how they decorated.*

*Now, because we are sinners, what we value, what we ascribe worth to, what worship or cheer for may be distorted...*

*When I was at Glen Eyrie one of my roommates was an alumnus of Ohio State University, which has a fierce rivalry with Michigan. That year Michigan beat Ohio State and about an hour after the game was over, I found my friend CRYING, and CRYING LOUD alone in our room! I thought someone had died, however he cried to me Ohio State lost to Michigan!*

*It seemed to me too much worth to ascribe to a game! We too often distort what is valuable with what is not! We ascribe great worth to something of little importance, like a game! Yet, little worth to something of extreme value, our relationship with God, or the value of a soul... as Jesus said -*

**<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Mark 8:36 (NKJV)**

*He also said –*

**Matthew 10:37–38 (NKJV)**

**<sup>37</sup> He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.  
<sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**

*If I understand these verses correctly, Jesus is worthy of greater love and devotion from us than even family, those we should love and be devoted to ...*

*I. What Heaven and Scripture (and Christ) count and call worthy, really is worthy –*

**<sup>8</sup> Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

**<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:8–9 (NKJV)**

*1. Jesus as the “Little Lamb” is worthy of our praise:*

- A. In **John 1:29** the Greek word used for Lamb of God, is the word for an adult Lamb, it pictures Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins, as the lamb slain -*
- B. Yet, the Greek word “arnion” “Little Lamb” used throughout the Book of Revelation communicates sacrifice and more, it also communicates humility, vulnerability and even seeming weakness, especially in contrast to Satan who is a fiery red dragon ... or in contrast to the Roman Empire –*

*Now there is a dispute over when the Book of Revelation was written? Was it written in the early 60’s AD before Nero and before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A. D.? Or was it written as late as the 90’s A. D.?*

*I prefer the earlier date, however, in one sense the dating does not matter as either way the Roman Empire ruled the world. Emperor worship was established, along with enforced worship of other false gods and POWER was PRINCE!*

*– Even before this time the Jews who despised Caesar, despised Jesus, as the Lamb, More!*

*Pitiful as He looked with the crown of thorns on His head, beaten by Roman soldiers, when Pilate asks them – ... **“Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” John 19:15***

*The cross was a stumbling block to the Jews because they thought Jesus being called their king, made them look weak and foolish compared to the mighty Romans. On the other hand, POWER is too often admired and worshipped in our world rule by Satan –*

**<sup>4</sup> So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:4**

*2. The worship of the Little Lamb, and Him alone, in this chapter shows us we are not to worship power, money, physical strength or beauty, which our world, tends to worship / value –*

**<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23-24**

*II. The extremely high level of the Little Lamb’s worth is communicated throughout this passage –*

*1. In the four living creatures and the elders falling –*

**<sup>8</sup> Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb... Revelation 5:8 A (NKJV)**

*Falling is an extreme form of bowing, see **Esther 3:2-6** regarding Mordecai not bowing to Haman, despite the fact it was commanded by the king. Only God is to be bowed to, fallen down before, we see this even in this Book of Revelation ...*

*Jump ahead to **Revelation 19:10** –*

**<sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10 (NKJV)**

*2. Having harps, musical instruments used in worship – each having a harp... Revelation 5:8 B (NKJV)*

**<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD with the harp; Psalm 33:2 A**

*3. Sainly Prayer –*  
**and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Revelation 5:8 C**

*I have often heard it said, and I think it true, “look at a person’s check book, if you see what they spend money on, that is what they value”*

*Yet, God looks at what we PRAY for! How (or how much) we pray?*

*4. Theologically informed, new songs, acknowledging the Lamb’s great, beneficial deed -*

**<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)**

*A. Proper appreciation and thankfulness for redemption is displayed in this song!*

*B. Redemption itself is seen or rather heard in the song, because instead of praising other, lesser things, the redeemed give their energy to praising God and Christ ...*

*We are redeemed from Hell! We are redeemed from sin! We are redeemed to God and Christ and the cause and causes of His glory and kingdom.*

5. *His redemption is to a high calling –*

**<sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10 (NKJV)**

6. *The fact this praise / worship is universal is due to the real worth of Jesus Christ and His great deed, in dying for our sin, redeeming a lost world –*

**<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup> Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. Revelation 5:11-14 (NKJV)**

*III. Redeemed worship is what we should be giving our LORD, the Lamb, NOW! –*

1. *The elders in this passage are representatives of all of us –*

**... And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)**

2. *Loud, energetic, enthusiastic, intelligent corporate worship*  
**a loud voice - :12**

**and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands - :11**

3. *Worship is what we do here at church, and should be our LIFE –*

**<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)**

4. *Worship is LOVING GOD –*

<sup>4</sup> **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> **“If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15 (NKJV)**

*People sing love songs to one another –*

Ain't no mountain high enough  
Ain't no valley low enough  
Ain't no river wide enough  
To keep me from getting to you, babe  
Marvin Gaye

*Gary Chapman wrote a book about 5 Love Language -*

- A. Words of affirmation, compliments, praise*
- B. Spending quality time*
- C. Giving and receiving gifts*
- D. Acts of service*
- E. Physical touch, hugs, kisses*

*The love should match the songs, the life must match the worship -*

<sup>8</sup> **‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Matthew 15:8**

*Arnold Brevick*