

Ascribe To The Lord: A Look at Divine Worship

When it really comes down to the root of it, how we spend our time, energy, and thinking shows us where values really lie. If we spend our time in the making of money, self image, or work, we tend to worship it. If our time, energy, and thinking are spent worshipping and serving God, we worship him.

There is a curious and mysterious word in Psalm 29, the word ascribe. “Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones...glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Tell. Write. Give credit to. Assign.

The writer urges us to ascribe to God values and characteristics which we do not often think about in heavenly terms. Most people think and act in the arena of time and do not think about heaven. When do we concentrate on heavenly things? In worship.

When we read the Bible, we see worlds changing, hearts being transformed by God who is beyond and at the very center of all things in the earth. The writers spend a great deal of time cataloguing the things God has done as a way of giving Him the honor and position He deserves.

In speaking of God as creator of the universe, we ascribe to His superhuman ability. Not because He needs us to do this. But because it is already His.

When we call God Redeemer, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, we acknowledge the fact that not only does God possess these divine qualities, but that we believe in Him in those ways as well. When we lift up ourselves as perfect, invulnerable, all knowing, or all-sufficient, we are trying to set ourselves up as God. We fail miserably, for we are none of those things. Only God is.

The Psalmist lifts up the proper placement of eternal, forever qualities. Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength, he says.

God’s glory, his holy and divine essence, is hard to describe. We see it in the power of the creation of the world, his intervention in the welfare of his people, in his interaction with human beings who can see only a tiny part of it because of how limited we are. We see it in the ways his glory is revealed to us at various times.

The part of Luke 2 we often relegate to the background at Christmas is the most important part. “The angel of the Lord appeared to them, [the shepherds] and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.” The glory of the Lord is revealed to us today in Jesus Christ his son.

This is the way we see it. We are saved by him. We walk with him. We listen to him. We see the glory of God in his interaction with us and in our interaction with him.

It is a wonderful thing that God chooses to reveal just a tiny part of glory to us. The entirety of it we would not be able to comprehend or accept. At one time or another we all must come to grips with it and “glory in his glory” for that is what we were created to do.

Over the years I have said this many times to you, but today I say it again as the most important thought you should ever consider. Ascribing the Lord the glory due his name can only be done properly in worship. And since we will never do it completely, and we can never finish ascribing the eternal glory which is his, we must do it as often as we can.

The beauty and impact of the music in church is written and presented by people who walk with the Lord and experience his divine nature. The words of the scriptures as presented in divine worship make an impact that can happen nowhere else. The holy gathering of God’s people encourages, heals, strengthens, and redeems like no other group. The getting up on Sunday morning, or whenever worship happens, the trip to your (God’s) church, the experience there, they are all part of the moments we get to ascribe to the Lord glory, honor, praise and majesty on a regular basis.

This is the church. As people go to and from worship, the lifeblood of the growing and blessing Christians, they have a higher focus, a better sense of life, a chance to think beyond the petty and ordinary.

So, dear reader, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Say that they are his. Acknowledge that you believe that the sun rises and sets by him, just for us. See him in the thunderstorms and the winds and the forests and the walking daily with his people. And you will see him more clearly than you ever saw before.