

## **Rev11 – Get Ready For Worship Revelation 4:1-11**

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Title of the message this morning, “Get Ready For Worship.” Amen! We are going to do all of Revelation Chapter 4 today, all eleven verses and it is good.

I just want to tell you as we start that we have been blessed here. We have been so blessed here in the area of worship. God made us worshipers, all of us. He gave me a specific heart for music even before I was saved, and he has just blessed this congregation with worship since we started. He has always given us a heart for worship and I have always been so grateful for it.

If you have been here with us for a long time you know that we went for five or six years with this awesome, incredible, week in, week out, over the top worship. And then suddenly without a week’s notice we went into a three year period of no worship leader. For three and a half years we didn’t have a formal worship leader. In fact every week Pastor Jeff and I were calling about thirty different people asking can they do worship. And so what happened is we never really knew what was coming, and you never really knew what was coming. And honestly, I don’t say this critically, it’s just the truth, the size of the church really diminished during those three years. Because people like to know what they are going to expect when they walk in the door.

But for the most part, this church remained wholehearted, sold out, full on worshipers of Jesus Christ, no matter what was going on up here musically. And we’ll know in a minute that worship isn’t just about the music. After a three year trial by fire, God says “Okay, you’ve learned what it means to worship without a musical style or ability you are used to.” And so once we learned that, then God just blessed us again! This group that you see behind me, this worship community that is behind me, has been created by God, it hasn’t been orchestrated by any man, especially not me, but God has put them together and put them here and blessed them tremendously with hearts of worship. And you guys respond!

Thank you very much for being worshipers. You’ll be glad you are a worshiper the moment you get to heaven. You’ll say, “Oh, okay, I know about this. I’ve been doing this. I’m ready to worship.”

So thank you for being with us through the long trial, thank you for joining in, for understanding, for being part of our desire to pour our hearts out to our Lord and Savior. Amen!

So our message today is about worship. It is about getting ready for worship. It’s about, listen carefully, worship here preparing for worship there. *It’s about worship here preparing us for worship there.*

Let’s pray. *Heavenly Father we pray that you would catch us up in our hearts, in our minds, that you would catch us up that we would understand that there is a connection*

*between worship here and worship there. There is a connection between what you do in us by your Holy Spirit here, and what you'll do in us there. Help us to see that we are citizens of heaven, that we are worshipers of the Most High God. And that as we go into worship we taste and see that you are good. We experience just a small bit of what is waiting, is reserved for us in heaven. We pray today that we would see it as we glimpse in the door with the Apostle John we pray, that we would see some of what to expect, as much as we can handle, when we get there. And Lord we pray you would prepare us for that by making us worshipers here. We pray you would do it in Jesus' name, amen.*

Last message we looked at how we are going to get to heaven. And it's not just if you are alive, the dead in Christ rise first. Last message we looked at the rapture, which was kind of the mode of transportation for us to get into the throne room. This message, we are going to look at what we are going to do, at least initially, when we get there. Last message we looked at how we are going to get into the throne room, this message we are going to look at what we are initially going to be doing when we get into the throne room.

Remember the door of heaven only opens twice. Once to let the Church in and once to let the Church out at the second coming. Last week the door of heaven opened and today we are going to peer into the throne room of heaven with the Apostle John. We're going to gaze into the throne room and what we are going to see there, start to finish, wall to wall, top to bottom, and all inclusive is worship. Pure, unadulterated worship. That's what we are going to see in the throne room of God.

In a heavenly perspective, the same thing we have the opportunity to partake of and to be involved in and to experience here. John is going to step into the throne room of heaven and he is going to see that everything in the throne room of God involves worship. *Everything in the throne room of God involves worship.* That shouldn't surprise us. We know that our God is worthy to be praised. We know that all of creation is built, is made, and is created to worship him for his glory. I hope you know. If you don't, I'll go ahead and tell you now. Your highest purpose as a believer is to ascribe worth to your great God. It's your highest purpose. *It's your highest purpose.* It's your highest purpose to worship God, is to worship Jesus Christ for who he is. It's your highest purpose.

So if you are still confused and thinking that worship is kind of the warm up for what is really important, I really hope to challenge you to the very core of your being today. I pray the Holy Spirit would just pierce you and that you would understand that worship is no warm up for anything. That everything else is actually warm up for worship. Listen, I'm not going to have a job in heaven. I'm going to be like, what am I supposed to do? Everybody knows Jesus Christ. They're known and they know him. They don't need a preacher. But these guys are going to be serving seven days a week. I'm going to be in a hammock. I think that is why preachers work so much now, because when I get to heaven there isn't going to be any preaching.

Listen, listen carefully please. Worship doesn't prepare you for preaching. Preaching prepares you to be a worshiper. Amen! We've got to get it straight. Preaching the Word prepares us to worship the King. Let's get it right. It is one of the greatest gifts God has given us on this earth. It is one of the closest ways that we can get to heaven on earth. It's to worship God. In his throne room, in the Spirit here, preparing for when we get there.

**Revelation 4:1 (esv)**

*1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*

Week looked at that verse intensely last week. This is how John (and the Church) gets up to heaven.

**Revelation 4:2-3 (esv)**

*2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.*

*3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.*

Immediately John is caught up to heaven. He is brought into the throne room and his focus goes first and foremost and all consuming, onto the throne and the one who sits on the throne. The word "throne" used twelve times in Chapter 4 of Revelation. That makes it the focus of the chapter. John is immediately caught up and consumed by his focus on the throne and the one who sits on the throne but it defies his ability to define. How in the world do we describe the glory of God in his own throne room? Alright, that's not possible. We don't have that language. Listen, Greek, even though this was common Greek, is this pictorial language. Not quite as pictorial as Hebrew. It's a very pictorial language. But John doesn't have the words. He doesn't have the words.

He says in verse 3 *he who sat [on the throne] had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald*. Jasper is a stone that we would call a diamond. A clear diamond, an immeasurably large, indescribably beautiful diamond. The carnelian is what we would call a ruby. So if you can try to grasp some mix of an immeasurable diamond and an immeasurable ruby, listen, with the light of God emanating from inside of it, and then circled completely by an emerald rainbow, you know that John is just struggling to describe the beauty and the majesty. He is speechless. Don't you want to be that way? Don't you want to be speechless before God? To say God you are just too much, I don't know how to describe you. But his words are picked perfectly by the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you some possibilities for why the Holy Spirit has John use these words. You might think that the one sitting on the throne, you might assume that it is God the

Father. And you're not wrong. I'm sure that it is God the Father. But let me just point out to you how there is an incredible picture on the throne, in the throne room of heaven, of the triune God, of all three persons of the Godhead, on or around the throne. Here's how. In Exodus 28 God instructs the high priest to wear twelve stones on the breastplate. Twelve stones that represent the twelve tribes of Israel. The last and the first of those twelve stones are named here by John, the jasper and the carnelian, what we would call the diamond and the ruby. So last and first, the jasper is the stone for Benjamin, the last of the twelve tribes. Benjamin's name, listen carefully, means "*son of my right hand, son of my authority.*" Ruben, the carnelian, is a firstborn son and his name means "*behold, a son.*" And so those who parse the possible meanings of Revelation, point to these two stones and say listen, this isn't by chance, this is a sign. At least I would say certainly could be a sign.

When we get to verse 11, our last verse of the day we will find out that we are worshiping the one who created all things. And we know by John 1 and Colossians 1 and Hebrews 1 that is a title for Jesus Christ. That he created all things, and all things that have been created were created by him and through him, and nothing that is created was created without him. And so in verse 11 we are going to be worshiping this One who created all things.

And in verse 5 look for the Holy Spirit in and around the throne. So when I tell you that we are worshiping God on the throne, that this is a picture of God on the throne, I mean the magnificent, triune God in all of his heavenly glory. That's what is happening. That is the first thing that consumes John's focus, and there's no wonder he doesn't have words for it. We shouldn't either. We shouldn't have words for our God. Our God is indescribable and he should be indescribable. And we should see him as such.

So what next does John see? Please catch this for me. The next thing that John sees as he goes into the throne room of heaven is critical to understand. First he is obviously consumed with the throne and the one who sits on the throne. Look at the next thing he sees. Revelation 4:4.

**Revelation 4:4 (esv)**

***4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.***

Who could these twenty four elders be, you might ask. I'll tell you what they are not. At least I agree with the scholars who say they are definitely not angels. The word elders is the word used in Paul's writing in the New Testament for the leaders of the church, the presbyter. These are leaders of the church. Angels don't have thrones, they don't get thrones but you and I in Christ have been promised to rule and reign with him. Mostly in the millennium, but just back in Revelation 3:21 Jesus says ***The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my***

***Father on his throne.*** And so if we see the trinity, the Godhead on this throne and then we see twenty four thrones around that are the elder's thrones and Jesus says you will rule and reign and sit with me on my throne, plus they are wearing white garments. White garments are only used to describe the clothing of the saints in Revelation. The only time the white garments are used is to describe the righteousness of Christ that the saints are clothed in. And so these are elders who are clothed in the righteousness of Christ and they have on their heads golden crowns. Now listen, there isn't any angel that gets a crown. At this point in Revelation there is no one else who has a crown except those who have been raptured into heaven, the believers. We are given golden crowns, and we will talk more about it in a second.

So leaders of the church in white garments with golden crowns on their heads all points to the Church. This is the Church. But what about the number twenty four? Why only twenty four? Dave are you telling me are you telling me that only twenty four of us get there? In 1 Chronicles 24 it talks about King David dividing the entire Levitical Priesthood up into twenty four courses of priests. Now there were thousands of Levitical priests that worked in the temple but they were divided into twenty four courses. Listen carefully now, when all of the Levitical priests were called later to the temple only twenty four came and they represented the entire Levitical Priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 says that the believers are a royal priesthood, a peculiar people. We are a royal priesthood and we have this picture in 1 Chronicles 24 of the priesthood being represented by twenty four elders, they are even called elders in 1 Chronicles. And then we see twenty four elders who represent the royal priesthood, all the believers in the throne room of heaven. That's good. Again, it doesn't mean only twenty four of us get to heaven. It means that John is seeing a picture that represents the Church in heaven. That is good news.

It struck me hard that the second thing that John notices in the throne room is us worshiping. The second thing that John notices in heaven, after the triune God on his throne, is you and I worshiping. There is nothing in heaven that is about us. The fact that we are second in the list of what John notices doesn't make it about us. It's not about us. What is important is that the second thing that draws John's attention is us doing what we can do now. It is us worshiping God on his throne. To me that puts it pretty high up on the priority list, since above it is only God himself and his throne. We are unbelievably privileged in the eternal throne room of God to join in the worship to the mighty King. *We are unbelievably privileged to be able to join in the worship of our King.* Again, we are unbelievable privileged to join in the worship of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. It is a phenomenal, almost incomparable privilege. It is the second thing that John sees when he steps into the throne room in heaven. It is a big deal.

Continuing in verse 5 of Revelation 4 we begin to see the awesomeness and the magnificence of what is happening in this room. And when I say awesome, I mean in the reverent awe usually translated as fear in the Bible. The reverent awe of the Lord.

**Revelation 4:5(a) (esv)**

***5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, . . .***

This is the only way that John has to describe the power that is coming from the throne, to describe the majesty that is coming from the throne. He says there are flashes of lightening through what is an immeasurable diamond and ruby combination, encircled by an emerald rainbow. Flashes of lightening and rumblings and peals of thunder. Guys, the last time God is described like this was at Mount Sinai. And that should give you a hint of what this is about. It was at Mount Sinai when God delivered the law that would condemn sin. And the people were terrified at Mount Sinai of God's judgment.

The good news is we haven't lived under that throne of flashes of lightening, and rumbles and peals of thunder. What throne have we lived under? We have lived under the throne of grace. We have lived under that throne of grace where we can have the confidence to come to the throne at any time to receive mercy and grace, to help us in our time of need. Guys listen carefully please, that is only because of Jesus Christ that we have lived in the age of grace, that we have lived under the throne of God that we can come boldly before the throne, that we can come with confidence. It's not our confidence; it's the confidence of Jesus Christ. But I am telling you; behind the wrath that Jesus took on your behalf is the wrath of God upon sin. And we must not change God into a helpful servant. We must see him for who he is. He must pour wrath out upon sin and the reason that we have lived in this age of grace and mercy is because God poured that wrath out upon Jesus Christ in our place. And then Jesus says, "Because I have taken the wrath, you have access into the throne room where you can come to find mercy and grace."

But we need to understand who our God is, and we need to not re-make him into some servant of ours. He is a majestic, indescribable God who must pour out wrath upon sin. He must. Which causes us to understand how great our salvation is when we understand the depth of the wrath that Christ took in our place and the reward of him taking that and exchanging it for his righteousness to us. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says he takes the wrath; we get his righteousness so we can come into the throne room. But if we become arrogant of that, demanding of God, you don't force God's hand for nothing. You fall on your face before him as a mighty and awesome God and you worship him for who he is. Amen!

Here's my point, when you understand what God has done to allow you into his throne room, because of the righteousness of Christ, you have a little harder time saying, "God, what have you done for me lately?" Sometimes someone will be talking and I will say to them "So what you're saying is that God really hasn't done much for you lately." But I usually gently point them to the cross and say "Are you sure you want to wag that finger

at God and say he hasn't done anything for you lately? I don't think you want to. He has done everything for you."

Here's the point of Revelation 4:5. John is seeing the setting of the stage for the wrath of God upon the sin of this earth. But here is the greater news. We're not on the earth; we are in the throne room seeing the preparation of the wrath of God poured out. That is the good news. We are worshiping.

Continuing in Revelation 4:5.

**Revelation 4:5(b) (esv)**

***5 . . . and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,***

This is the same way the Holy Spirit was described back in Revelation 1:4. The seven Spirits of God. The NLT helps us with its ability to expand the literal translation. The NLT says the sevenfold Spirit of God, because it is most probably a reference back to the sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah Chapter 11. And so this seven Spirits of God or the sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit is a common name for him. Seven, of course, being the number of completion or perfection. And so, again, I just want you to know that when we are worshiping God it is all of him. It is all of him. It is the Godhead. And you might say, I'm not sure who to worship, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Listen, you can't grasp it. It's just true. And you don't have to be able to grasp it for it to be true. This is God in all of his glory. This is God in the fullness of the Godhead, and you have the privilege of worshiping him in his majesty. That is the point. Amen!

Next, in Revelation 4:6, John is still trying to describe this to us, and he is at a loss. But it's how we should be. Imagine if you went to heaven and said, "Yeah, that's what I thought it would be like. Yep, pretty much how I pictured it." Not a chance! There is not a chance.

**Revelation 4:6(a) says (esv)**

***6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal . . .***

We have two options to try to explain, or at least wonder, about this word "sea." The sea of glass. When I say a sea of glass you probably picture an ocean. Right? And it may very well be an ocean, and ocean of glass like crystal. However, there is another "sea" that is connected to the picture of the throne room of heaven on earth we call the Temple.

This is very cool. In 1 Kings 7:23, listen carefully please, Solomon is building the Temple by the instructions that the Lord has given him. And he builds a massive laver that started, of course, in the Tabernacle. This massive laver that was fifteen feet across, and it was held on the backs of a dozen bulls made of brass. The laver was of brass, fifteen feet across. It was called "The Molten Sea." What was this laver for? Well, it

stood away from the holy place so the priests would come to the laver first, watch carefully now, and they would wash the sin of the world off of them before they went into the holy place. It's called the Molten Sea.

So if this sea that John is using, if he is using a word that he knows from reading 1 Kings, then it could be talking about this laver being turned into crystal. Why? No need to wash the sin off the priests anymore. That work is done. And so this molten sea that sat outside the holy place may be there before the throne, crystal like glass, to remind us that we will never have the need for sin to be washed off us anymore. A wonderful picture, illustration.

If it is the sea like the ocean then it just adds to the immenseness of heaven, right? I mean, you imagine all this and an ocean of crystal? It just becomes too big, and that is how it should be. *a sea of glass, like crystal*

**Revelation 4:6(b)-7 (esv)**

*6 . . . And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:*

*7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.*

Four living creatures. The most literal translation is "living being." If you are reading a Bible that says the word "beast" there, that word beast is a bad translation because we know we are going to see the word beast later in Revelation. These aren't beasts, these are living beings. They are living beings and most translations call them living creatures.

So John is trying his best to describe something that defies description. And probably, maybe, he pulls back to Ezekiel this time, and he remembers Ezekiel seeing something very similar and he describes these four living beings similar to how Ezekiel described them in Ezekiel Chapter 1. Write it down, read it later. If you read Ezekiel 1 and I hope you do, if you try to really get in your mind the description of these living being that Ezekiel writes about it will make your head explode. We can't even hardly describe it.

Ezekiel describes them in Chapter 1, and then he goes back in Chapter 10 and refers back to them. And when he refers back to them in Chapter 10 he calls them what we call them cherubim. They are cherubim. They are awesome. They are angelic. They are majestic. They are beautiful. They defy description. They are cherubim. And listen carefully.

This is one of the key points of the message. The cherubim have two purposes. They have two reasons for being in heaven.

#1) They are the worship leaders in heaven. Every time the cherubim (who are in charge of worship in heaven) worship, they worship with the twenty four elders. Listen, these are



our worship leaders in heaven. We've got to give them some love. They are our worship leaders. They are beautiful, they are majestic, they are angelic, they are incredible. And they are worship leaders. That is their number one job.

#2) They are charged with the execution of God's judgment on the earth. That part they do alone. We don't have anything to do with that.

So they are worship leaders for us, and they are the deliverers (if you will) of God's wrath, which we will get into. So you might say "I have heard about the Lion and the Ox and the Man and the Eagle." Many people have tried to guess what the different "looks" represent. It's cool to read all the guesses. There's a lot of people that say these may be the attributes of God, and they take these four "faces" if you will, of the cherubim and they connect them to the attributes of God. Maybe you have heard people connect them to the portraits of Christ that we see in the gospels. And they connect the four gospel books to these four living beings, these four personalities of these living beings. And they show the four views or perspectives of Jesus Christ in the gospel. Those are both very, very cool things to develop.

But listen, here is our point today, they are worship leaders. They are worship leaders. I don't want you to get all caught up on "Well, who is the Ox and who is the Lion and who is the man and who is the Eagle?"

I want you to understand that the cherubim's job is to lead us in worship in the throne room of God. That is what I want you to understand for this message. So just grasp that. They are awesome, they are beautiful, they are worship leaders and we know the name of an ex-cherubim. We know the name of an ex-cherubim. An ex worship leader in heaven. In fact Ezekiel 28 says that he was a leader, possibly *the* leader, of the cherubim who lead worship in heaven. His name means "light bearer." We say Lucifer. Lucifer was a cherubim. He was a worship leader. Lucifer understands how powerful worship is. For good or for evil. So be careful. Be careful. The Bible tells us we were made to worship. And so you are either worshipping God, or you are worshipping something else. And if Lucifer was a head worship leader, he is probably pretty good at getting us to worship something else. So, be careful. Don't be following the wrong worship leader.

These cherubim that John sees in the throne room are worship leaders. That is our focus today. That's what I am trying my best to stick to. Revelation 4:8.

**Revelation 4:8 (esv)**

***8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"***

***They never cease to say Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"***

They are worship leaders. When you arrive in heaven, be ready for worship, because if you're not you'll probably wish you would have practiced a little.

Let's talk about what a worship leader does. Let's define a worship leader. That's the point of the message today. Let me start by telling you what a worship leader is *not*. A worship leader is not someone who has the ability to play an instrument on the stage in a church. I know churches personally that hire professional, union musicians from Hollywood to play every Sunday. Just because they can play doesn't mean they are worship leaders.

Let's look at the cherubim and we will find out what a worship leader does. Here's the definition of a worship leader. It is "*going first into worship.*" It is "*leading*" meaning "*going ahead of others into worship.*" A worship leader begins to worship first. And then thereby, by their worshipping others join and follow them into worship. A worship leader worships first. That's the definition of a worship leader. They go out in front of the congregation in worship.

That is exactly what we see in the cherubim. The cherubim start to worship and we follow.

**Revelation 4:9-10(a) (esv)**

***9 And whenever the living creatures (Worship Leaders) give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,  
10 the twenty-four elders (us) fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever . . .***

Guys, listen. We need to be ready for worship. When those living beings go ahead of us into worship, we need to say "It's time!" And we need to start worshipping. Listen, I'm telling you the truth, when you get to heaven and the cherubim start worshipping you'll say "Oh that's my clue!" and you're going to start worshipping the Lord. Well, listen. God has given us this incredible privilege of doing that here! We can get a taste of that here. How phenomenal is God to say as Ephesians says, I am going to give you the down payment, the earnest of the Holy Spirit so that you'll know what's in store for you. Listen, that is what you see here. I know there is a bunch of other stuff I could talk about.

Here is what is going on in the throne room of heaven. Worship. Here is how it is happening. The cherubim who are created to be worship leaders begin worshipping. And then the twenty four elders follow them in worship.

Here's something that might surprise you. We have living creatures here. They don't have six wings and they don't have eyes all around them (that is the omniscience and the omnipresence of God) but we have living beings up here. We have living creatures up here. We have living beings who are called to go first into worship and when they do that is our call to follow. It's time to worship. The living beings are going before us into

worship, we have to join them. Right? Listen, I've got to tell you, you either come in seeing this community up here as living beings who are leading you into worship, or you come in and you see them as an old re-run of American Bandstand. Listen, let me just tell you, I promise I am being as gentle as I can. If you're spectating, if you're viewing, if you're critiquing and analyzing like you were watching American Bandstand you are missing it by a million miles. I mean you are missing it, you are missing it immeasurably. You are missing it. Don't miss it. *Don't miss it.*

You have an opportunity to join in the worship with all of creation now. You have an opportunity to worship now to prepare you for worship then. You have an opportunity to experience a taste, a measure, a down payment, just a little bit of what you are going to be doing in heaven. Why would we turn that into a spectator sport? And God forbid that we would ever say "Oh, it's alright. It's just worship. I'm just going to miss worship."

Listen, if you miss worship in heaven you're never going in. You don't want to miss worship! That's what heaven is about! We have an opportunity to participate in the eternal worship of the living God, right now. To prepare here for what is going to happen there. This is basic training. It's basic training for worship in the throne room. And when I show up in the throne room, I'm going to fall on my face and pass out like John did when he saw Jesus.

There's one thing we can't do here that we will be able to do there.

**Revelation 4:10(b) (esv)**

***10 . . . They (24 elders) cast their crowns before the throne,***

Next message we are going to stop and talk about these crowns, why we have them, where they come from and if you know what is called the Bemus seat, the judgment seat of Christ. We are just going to stop and develop this key point next message. So we are going to deal with these casting their crowns event next week.

So finally today, verse 11. Here's what we sing. Here's our purpose for being in the throne room. Here is what catches John's attention second only to the throne of God.

**Revelation 4:11 (esv)**

***11 [saying] "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."***

Worthy, worthy, worthy. ***WORTHY are you - our Lord & God to receive glory and honor and power.*** Let me just define worship for you. Worship is defined as "*the act of ascribing worth to God.*" "*Giving him worth.*" "*Acknowledging the worth that he has inherent in himself.*" It is "*ascribing the worth that he is due.*"

That's what we are going to be doing in heaven. That is what we have the opportunity to do here. I just think maybe sometimes we don't catch it. That we have the opportunity to

do here what our primary role is going to be in heaven. Now listen, it is important that I say we are going to be serving the Lord in heaven too. We are going to be busy. It's not going to be all rock band and dance party. Listen, we can serve the Lord here too. And our whole life should be an offering. It should be worshipful. But this picture is the act of worship; it's the act of being all in. All of our mind, all of our emotions, all of our body, all of our voice, ascribing worth to God.

How important is it? Ultimately it is the highest purpose for our existence. Ascribing worth to God ultimately is the highest purpose for our existence. And we can start today doing that. When we worship with all of our hearts, here, we are getting ready for worshipping the Lord there. When we surrender it all here we are getting ready to have had it all surrendered there. When we command our soul to worship the Lord with all that is within us we are choosing to do here what we will be called to do there.

**Psalm 103:1 (esv)**

*1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

**Psalm 29:1–2 (esv)**

*1 . . . ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*

*2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.*

These are detailed descriptions of how we are called to worship the Lord here.

**Psalm 96:1–4 (esv)**

*1 . . . sing to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name . . . 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised . . .*

We've got to be ready for worship. We've got to be ready to say great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

One of our greatest privileges on this earth is to worship God. Don't miss it. Don't miss it. Be ready to worship. We have the privilege of doing today what we will be doing there on that day. So when we worship, let's worship with everything we have, all that we are. All of our mind. All of our emotions. All of our voice. All that is within me, bless his holy name.

And just remember, you're getting ready for worship. You are getting ready for worship in the throne room.

Let's pray. *Lord Jesus we worship you. Lord God almighty you are high and lifted up. And the glory of your train fills the temple. You are a great and an awesome God. You are worthy to be praised. We ascribe worth to you, Lord. We desire to sing to you, to*

*pour our hearts out to you to acknowledge that you are who you are in our hearts. To personally worship. To personally commune with you. To personally know you. To personally surrender to you.*

If you're not at that place, get there quick. Now is a good time. Just pray right now. Repent of whatever else it is that you are worshiping, whatever else it is you are serving, just repent. Turn from it right now. Just say,

*Lord I turn from that. I want to worship you. I receive you into my life. I commit to believe and I put my full faith and trust in you. Lord Jesus come into my life. I believe. I believe you are who you say you are and I want to be in that number that worships you by choice and not by judgment. I want to worship you. I want to be a worshiper. Please come into my life, fill me with your Holy Spirit. Make me a worshiper. In Jesus' name, amen.*