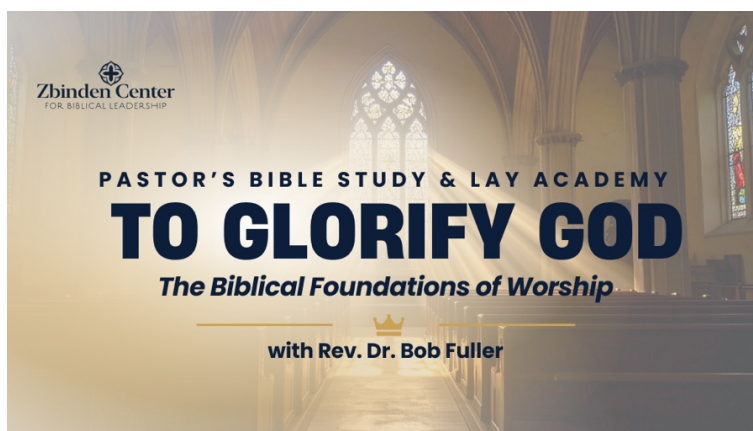




EPISODE 1: WORTHY OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 9/10

I. WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

- a. “Surpassing Worth”
 - i. The Apostle Paul : Philippians, Chapter 3:4-8
 1. ⁴ ... *If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more... (Philippians 3:4)*
 2. Personal Gratitude and Awe
 3. ⁸ *everything else I had I count as a liability, a distraction, a burden compared to the **surpassing worth** of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*
 - ii. Worship is a declaration of God’s “surpassing worth.”
 - iii. It is our declaration that the Lord is worth more than anything else and that He is worthy of our praise.
- b. The Lord is “Worthy” of our Worship.
 - i. Revelation 4:11: ¹¹ *“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.”*
 - ii. Psalm 29:2 ² *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.*
 - iii. Psalm 96:8-9 ⁸ *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name ...⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!*
 - iv. Revelation 5:12: *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*

II. WHY IS WORSHIP IMPORTANT FOR US?

- a. Worship is the active personal expression of Awe and Love.
 - i. John 4:23 ²³ *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.*
- b. Worship “right-sizes” God and Worship “right-sizes” us.

- c. Worship is a declaration that God has made a real difference in our lives.
- d. Worship reminds us that God is the Reason for everything the Church does.
 - i. *What is the Chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*
(Westminster Shorter Catechism 1.1)
- e. Worship is a public declaration that we ***Take God seriously***. Psalm 96:4
 - i. *For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.*
- f. The Day of our Worship
 - i. Saturday= *The Sabbath*
 - ii. Sunday= *The Lord's Day*.
 - 1. Easter. Resurrection Day. Ascension Day
 - 2. The First Day Justin martyr. *And we all assemble together on Sunday, because it is the first day, on which God, having transformed the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ, our savior rose from the dead the same day.*
 - 3. The Eighth Day: The Epistle of Barnabas. *The present sabbaths are not acceptable to me, but that which I have made, in which I will give rest to all things and make the beginning of an eighth day, that is the beginning of another world. Wherefore we also celebrate with gladness the eighth day in which Jesus also rose from the dead, and was made manifest, and descended into heaven.*

III. WORSHIP IS “ESCHATOLOGICAL.”

- a. Eschatology—words about the “Last things” the final things.
- b. The things that eternal, real, and really matter.
- c. Christian worship is “practiced eschatology” means that worship does not merely teach Christians about the future hope of God’s kingdom; it enacts and anticipates that future in the present.
- d. The Kingdom of God is “at Hand”
- e. Worship is our decision to live in the reality of God now.
- f. John was “In the Spirit.” (Revelation 4:2)
- g. Funeral declaration: “We live as those prepared to die and we die as those prepared to live.”

IV. WARNING: OUR WORSHIP “POSTURE.”

- a. Ezekiel 22:26: *Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.*
- b. Roger Nishioka
 - i. We Work at Our Play
 - ii. We Play at our Worship
 - iii. We Worship at our Work
- c. Soren Kierkegaard. *Worship isn't God's show. God is the audience. God is watching. The congregation. They are the actors in this drama. Worship is their show. And the minister is just reminding the people of their forgotten lines.*

- d. “Divine Dialogue”
 - i. Worship is an encounter between God and his covenant people in which God speaks and his people respond.
 - ii. God speaks → God’s people hear → God’s people respond → God speaks again → the people respond.
- e. Worship is not a one-way human activity directed toward God. God is the initiator. The congregation's worship is a gracious response to God's prior revelation and action. Reformed writers consequently emphasize that God should “speak first and most,” and that the order of worship should be governed by God's Word.

V. WORSHIP MATTERS