Series – The Whys of Worship – Sermon 1 - 4/10/09 (am)

Why do we worship God?

Acts 17:22-31

Theme: *God is altogether worthy of our worship.*

Paul's Reasons as to why we Worship God (Acts 17:22-31)

Paul was on his second missionary journey.

He was preaching to Athenian intellectuals.

Each description of God could be prefixed with *We worship God because* …

and suffixed with … *that is why we worship God.*

Reason 1 - God is our Creator (17:24, 26).

Reason 2 - God is our Sustainer (17:25). *Cf.* Job 12:10; Job 34:14-15; Col. 1:17.

Reason 3 - God is our Ruler (17:26-28a).

Reason 4 - God is our Father (17:28b-29). Father of all, not in terms of redemption but in the sense that He created all, sustains all and providentially cares for all.

Reason 5 - God is our Judge (17:30-31).

Reason 6 - God is a God of Grace. Written over reasons 1-5.

Q. *Why do we worship God?*

A. Because God is worthy of our worship.

With the Apostle speaking in the context of idolatry it seems clear that we should worship God not only because He is worthy but because …

… **Reason 7 - God *commands* us to worship Him**. 17:29-30. *Cf.* Ex. 20:3-4; Matt. 4:8-10.

Worship Defined

Two groups of Hebrew and Greek words are translated ‘worship’:

1. those meaning labour/service;

2. those meaning bowing or bending the knee.

So worship is what *we actively do* to honour God.

Worship is the proper response of all moral living beings to our triune Creator God, Father, Son and Spirit, because He commands us to worship Him and because He alone is altogether worthy of our worship.

Worship must be God-centred and not man-centred.

Worship is not about having the individual worshipper's needs met!

Worship has a ***horizontal*** dimension, *cf*. 1 Cor. 14:24-26,

but worship is primarily ***vertical*** – for God's glory.

Conclusion—Let us Understand!

Q. Why do we worship God?

A. He is worthy of our worship and He commands us to worship Him.

When we leave public worship we

should not ask

What did I get out of that?

We should ask

How did I do in my duty of

honouring the Lord?