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BLESSED BY WORSHIP Decatur, IL

INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Romans 11:32-12:2**.
For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. **33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! **34** For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? **35** Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? **36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen. **12:1** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

B. Thanks to Dan Chambers and *Showtime! Worship in the Age of Show Business*, chapter 8.

C. The Bible tells us there are many blessings to be enjoyed when one is worshiping. A God-centered worship honors and praises the Father, but also results in good things for those doing the worshiping!

I. **THROUGH WORSHIP A PERSON'S…**
…KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GOD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE.

A. One blessing of worship is that through it a person's knowledge and understanding of God significantly increases. When a person reads and meditates on Scripture, listens to strong, Biblical preaching and teaching, and sings hymns that celebrate God's work, nature, and attributes--God as creator, ruler, and redeemer comes into sharper focus.

B. There are many reasons to consider this intensified apprehension of God to be among the most valuable and coveted blessings that a person could ever receive (Jer. 9:23-24).
Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; **24** but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

C. Knowing and understanding God…

1. …as He truly is, brings great comfort (Mt. 6:33,34; 2Pet. 1:3; 1Cor. 10:13).
(Mt 6:33-34) "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. **34** "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. *Each* day has enough trouble of its own.
(1Cor 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
(2Pet 1:3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2. …inspires trust and confidence in Him (Jer. 17:5-8; 2Tim. 2:13; Ti. 1:2).
(Jer 17:5-8) Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. **6** "For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. **7** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. **8** "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.
(2Tim 2:13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.
(Ti 1:2) in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

3. …cultivates respect and reverence for Him (Psa. 2:11; Heb. 12:28).
(Psa 2:11) Worship the LORD with reverence, And rejoice with trembling.
(Heb 12:28) Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

4. …cultivates in the disciple a desire to worship Him (Psa. 122:1).
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

5. …helps one understand and appreciate the seriousness of sin (Isa. 59:1-2; 1Pet. 1:14-16).
(Isa 59:1-2) Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He does not hear.
(1Pet 1:14-16) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, **15** but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; **16** because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
6. …will inspire people to pursue holiness (Rom. 12:1; 2Cor. 7:1; Eph. 1:4; 5:27; Col. 1:22).
(Rom 12:1) I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.
(2Cor 7:1) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
(Eph 1:4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love
(Eph 5:27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.
(Col 1:22) yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--

II. **THROUGH WORSHIP A PERSON…**
…RECOGNIZES HIS SINFULNESS AND UNWORTHINESS TO BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE.
A. An encounter with the infinitely holy God a person sees himself in all his sin and recognizes that he is unworthy to be in God's presence.
B. Those who recognize their sinfulness will aggressively seek and ultimately find it in JC.
C. A recognition and appreciation of one's sinfulness and unworthiness to be in God's presence promotes a spirit of humility that must characterize those who seek to follow Christ.
D. God not only want him to come into His presence (Heb. 4:15-16), but that He has provided a way for him to do so (see Heb. 10:19-25), that person will likely be overwhelmed with deep gratitude.
(Heb 4:15-16) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. **16** Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

III. **THROUGH WORSHIP A PERSON…**
…IS REMINDED THAT HE HAS GREAT INTRINSIC VALUE AND THAT GOD IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN HIM.
A. In worship a person will be confronted with many facts which remind him that he has great intrinsic worth, and that God is genuinely and passionately interested in his well-being (Mt. 6:25-26).
"For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, *as to* what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? **26** "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
B. The person who knows that God is personally concerned about him will be filled with joy.
C. Knowing that God cares for each person brings great emotional comfort.
D. Being conscious of one's intrinsic worth and conscious of God's concern for each person, tends to fill one with awe, wonder, and gratitude.
E. Fourth, the person who knows and appreciates the fact that he has great intrinsic worth will be inspired to excel spiritually.
F. The person who is conscious of his great intrinsic worth and the fact that God personally cares for him will recognize that every other person is equally valuable to God, and he will subsequently treat each one in a manner which reflects his value and worth (Mt. 18:10).
"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

IV. **THROUGH WORSHIP A CHRISTIAN…**
…IS REMINDED OF HIS PRIVILEGED POSITION IN CHRIST.

A. For one thing, he will be prompted to live a life that is characterized by worship and sacrificial service (see Rom. 11:32-36; 12:1-2).

B. An awareness and appreciation of the privileges that one has in Christ should bring a person great emotional comfort or peace of mind (Rom. 15:13; Phil. 4:7; Gal. 5:22).

(Rom 15:13) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Phil 4:7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Gal 5:22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

V. **THROUGH WORSHIP A PERSON…**
…WILL BE PROMPTED TO VIEW LIFE FROM AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

A. True worship helps a person view life from an eternal perspective (Heb. 9:27).
And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

B. He will be confronted with the fact that after death he will stand before God and have his life judged (Mt. 16:27; Rom. 2:16; 14:10-12; 2Cor. 5:9-10; Heb. 9:27).

(Mt 16:27) "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.
(Rom 2:16) on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.
(Rom 14:10-12) But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." **12** So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.
(2Cor 5:9-10) Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
(Heb 9:27) And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

C. He will be confronted with the fact that based on his life, God will consign him to heaven or hell for all eternity (Jn. 5:28-29; see also Mt. 25:31-46; 19:29; Jn. 3:16,36; 5:24; 6:27,40,47,54; Rom. 2:5-8).

(Jn 5:28-29) "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, **29** and shall come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

VI. **THROUGH WORSHIP A PERSON'S…**
…KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WILL OF GOD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES.

A. God has promised to bless eternally only those who do His will (Mt. 7:21; 12:50; Jn. 9:31; Heb. 10:36; 1Pet. 4:2; 1Jn. 2:17; see also Lk. 12:41-48).

(Mt 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.
(Mt 12:50) "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."
(Jn 9:31) "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him.
(Heb 10:36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.
(1Pet 4:2) so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
(1Jn 2:17) And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

B. And one cannot *do* His will--socially, morally, ethically, or religiously--without first *knowing* and *understanding* it (Ezra 7:10).
For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to practice *it,* and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

VII. **THROUGH WORSHIP A PERSON…**

…RECEIVES ENCOURAGEMENT FOR LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

During periods of deep discouragement and emotional fatigue, Christians need to be encouraged and inspired to keep fighting the "good fight of faith." They also need encouragement and inspiration when the periods of discouragement are not so deep. One way that a Christian receives needed encouragement and inspiration is through worship.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. The irony of these blessings will fully come only to those who primary reason for worshiping is to give adoration and praise to God. I am convinced that they will not be fully received if one is worshiping largely to get some sort of personal reward or payoff.
B. The next lesson in this series is a review of the "acts of worship." Those things we should do when assembled to worship.
C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.