

John 1-21

Applying John's Gospel for All It's Worth: Worship

(pt. 1)

INTRO- “**SELAH!**” How does slowing down to “pause and ponder” the Revelation of God in Christ *greatly enhance* and *enrich* our worship?

In what ways might Christ-centered expositions of John's Gospel impact our worship/adoration?

Applying John's Gospel for All It's Worth.

A Christ-centered sermon is inherently practical and should impact 5 Facets of Faith:

1) _____ : (As we see and savor Jesus Christ for who He truly is).

2) _____ : (As we become more and more like Christ).

3) _____ : (As we embrace the person and work of Christ).

4) _____ : (As we effectively defend the honor & glory of Christ).

5) _____ : (As we point the lost to the TRUE Christ in a world of many counterfeit “Christs”).

TRUE WORSHIP- John 4:23-24 (Psalm 100; Isaiah 43:21; Rom. 11:33-36)

For Further Reflection/Application: *We must be doers of God's Word and not merely hearers only.*

Selah! How does slowing down to really “pause and ponder” the Revelation of God in Christ enhance and enrich our worship? Note how often the term “selah” is used in the O.T. Psalm book.

How often do I carefully weigh the meaning of the truths that are sung, read, and preached each and every Lord's Day? It is hard to do this since the world we live in is fast paced...but meditating on the Word and Son of God is absolutely critical. Ask God to quiet your heart when you come to worship Him on Sunday AM. Ask him to do so during your weekly “quiet” times.

Each Sunday write down a few words/thoughts/doctrines/truths to ponder more deeply in the week to come (Note Ps. 1:1-3). It could be the profound concept such as the Trinity (Jn. 1:1), the dual natures of Christ (Jn. 1:14), or Jesus' substitutionary atonement (think of the song- “His Robes for Mine”). It could be the simple word “Noel,” or the name/title “Immanuel,” or the phrase, “Gloria in excelsis Deo.” Pause and ponder! Come behold the wonderous mystery! Seek to worship God with your mind (Mt. 22:37)!

Since John's Gospel is an evangelistic treatise (per Jn. 20:30-31), what practical benefits does this book offer those who ALREADY believe? How can Christians benefit from John?

How will the “applicational template” from this message help us as we go verse by verse through the Gospel of John? Note: **not** all five facets of faith will be addressed in any given sermon. We need to have realistic expectations when we study or listen to the Word of God.

What role do you, as an expository listener, have in the sermon application process? (See Luke 11:28; James 1:19-25)

What role do expository preachers have in the application process? (See 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 1 Tim. 4:11; Titus 2:15)

What is the symbiotic relationship between biblical preaching and Christ-honoring worship?

John Piper, “The reason that PREACHING is so essential to the corporate worship of the church is that it is uniquely suited to feed both *understanding* and *feeling*! (i.e. to help stir our religious affections). Preaching is uniquely suited to waken seeing and savoring of Christ. True preaching is Text-driven, Spirit-filled, and is contagiously worshipful! Our preaching pastor is committed to “expository exultation!” One of Pastor Caleb's main goals on Sunday AM is to lift God's people up to the heights of wonder, love, and praise through the proclamation of God's Word and the exaltation of God's Son.

Worship is our ultimate priority and our most sacred duty and delight. Note John 4:23-24. Psalm 100. (Note Revelation 4-5 for glimpses of heavenly worship/glory!)

How is adoration related to consecration? We praise what we prize. We live for what we love the most! How does worship extend to faithful and focused Christian living (Rom. 12:1-3)?

“We increase the intensity, joy, and fidelity of our worship not by including the verb ‘to worship’ in every second line of our so-called ‘worship songs,’ but by knowing more about God, and bringing our adoration to Him, as He is...Insofar as our conceptions of the Almighty diverge from what he has disclosed of himself, so far are we worshipping a false god, which is normally called idolatry. To study hard what holy Scripture says about the Son of God, who has most comprehensively revealed his heavenly Father, is to know more about God, and thus to begin to ground our worship in reality rather than slogans.” D.A. Carson.

For an example of how theological instruction impacts doxological praise see the brief clip by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson on YouTube titled “*Why the God-Man?*”

Related Praise Songs: *Theology fuels Doxology! We dig deeply in order that we may go high in praise!*

Show Us Christ- Sovereign Grace Music
Jesus’s There’s None Like You- Sovereign Grace Music
Come, O Sinner- Sovereign Grace Music
Jesus Son of God- Chris Tomlin
Give Me Jesus-
Compassion Hymn- Getty.
Wonderful, Merciful Savior- Steve Camp
I Am the Good Shepherd- Fernando Ortega
My Worth is Not in What I Own
Knowing You Jesus (All I Once Held Dear)
In Christ Alone- Getty.
God of God- Enfield
Come Adore the Humble King- Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
The King in All His Beauty- Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
All Hail King Jesus-
Jesus Paid It All-
Crown Him with Many Crowns-
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed-
Christ the Lord is Risen Today-
Handel’s “Messiah.” The “*Hallelujah Chorus.*”

Related Study Resources:

John MacArthur: *Worship: The Ultimate Priority*
See Al Mohler’s “Expository Preaching: Center of Christian Worship” (which is chapter 5 in *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship*).
See brief video clip by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson on YouTube titled “*Why the God-Man?*”
Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family, and Church- Keith and Kristyn Getty

All related sermons can be downloaded for free at www.lakecountrybible.org