

Overview

The MYC Teaching Programme

1. Main Talks

These plenary sessions will help us think through our topic from the “big picture”

Friday afternoon	<i>“True worshippers”</i>
Friday night	<i>The pattern of worship</i>
Saturday night	<i>The fulfilment of worship</i>
Sunday night	<i>Gospel-driven worship</i>
Monday night	<i>“Praise and Worship”</i>
Tuesday Morning	<i>The end of worship</i>

2. Morning sessions

These sessions are designed to help give us a “global focus” as we are encouraged by what God is doing throughout His world. They will also include some time for personal devotion and reflection

3. Workshops

These staff-led workshops will develop your ability to “think theologically” by exploring related topics and aspects of the Christian life.

Note: ‘FOCUS on Jesus’ OR ‘Finding your place in God’s story’ workshop is compulsory for first-timers (but all are welcome!)

see page 74 for more details on each workshop + locations

4. Review Groups

These student-led small groups will help you get to know a few other ESers really well and have a chance to debrief generally

5. Question Times

Self-explanatory! An MYC favourite ...

Write questions and leave in the box at the back of main hall, or text to 0419580858

Talk 1. “True Worshipers”

Friday afternoon

1. Why is “worship” so controversial?

1.1. The problem of _____

1.2. The problem of _____

1.3. The problem of _____

Gen 4:1 Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.”² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

2. What IS worship?

worship = “worth-ship” = weorthscape = worthiness

“Reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred.” (Dictionary.com)

2.1. Worship as _____

Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Q. How do you show “humble adoration” to someone?

A1. “Sing their praise”



A2. “Shower them with gifts”



Mt 2:11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

A3. “Kneel in submission”



*Our Father in Heaven
Hallowed be **your** name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as in heaven*

2.2. Worship as _____

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2.3. Worship as _____

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. The heart of (true) worship

Jn 4:19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*” ²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

i. **True** worship is not _____

ii. **True** worship is _____

iii. **True** worship is _____

MYC 2019 Talks ...

- Talk 1. “True worshipers”
- Talk 2. The pattern of worship
- Talk 3. The fulfilment of worship
- Talk 4. Gospel-driven worship
- Talk 5. “Praise and worship”
- Talk 6. The end of worship

What I’ve learned (and my response)

Talk 2. The pattern of worship

Friday night

Ps 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice, ⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness ...

1. What worship in the Old Testament was meant to be like

1.1. Humble adoration

Ex 20:1 And God spoke all these words: ² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

3 descriptions:

i.

ii.

iii.

1.2. Purifying sacrifice

Ex 12:21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. ²⁴ “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸ The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

3 descriptions:

i.

ii.

Ex 4:22 Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.’”

iii.

Lev 1:1 The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting. He said, ² “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When anyone among you brings an offering to the Lord, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock. ³ “‘If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect. You must present it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that it will be acceptable to the Lord. ⁴ You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you. ⁵ You are to slaughter the young bull before the Lord, and then Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁶ You are to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces. ⁷ The sons of Aaron the priest are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. ⁸ Then Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, including the head and the fat, on the wood that is burning on the altar. ⁹ You are to wash the internal organs and the legs with water, and the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

3 key elements to the OT sacrificial system:

i. an animal to be sacrificed as a substitute



ii. a priest to offer the sacrifice



iii. a place to bring the sacrifice



Deut 12:8 You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit, ⁹ since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁰ But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety. ¹¹ Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord. ¹² And there rejoice before the Lord your God—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites from your towns who have no allotment or inheritance of their own. ¹³ Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please. ¹⁴ Offer them only at the place the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, and there observe everything I command you.

Q. How effective was this (symbolic) sacrificial system?

“it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you” (Lev 1:4)

“an aroma pleasing to the Lord” (Lev 1:9)

1.3. All-of-life service

Ex 19:1 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. ³ Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” ⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

Q1. Why call Israel a “kingdom of priests” (not a “kingdom of servants”)?

Q2. Do you think they kept their promise (v8)?!

2. What worship in the Old Testament was actually like

Ps 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice,⁸ *“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness ...*

Lev 10:1 Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command.² So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

4 particular corruptions of the OT sacrificial system ...

2.1. not worshipping at the place of God’s choosing

1 Ki 12:26 Jeroboam thought to himself, “The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David.²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam.”²⁸ After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”²⁹ One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.³⁰ And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.³¹ Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites.³² He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made.

Jeroboam’s sins ...

i.

ii.

iii.



=> how are YOU guilty of this (or tend towards this?)

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

2.2. not bringing costly sacrifices

Mal 1:6 “A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty. “It is you priests who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’” 7 “By offering defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’” “By saying that the Lord’s table is contemptible. 8 When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the Lord Almighty.

=> how are YOU guilty of this (or tend towards this?)

2.3. not being genuinely repentant

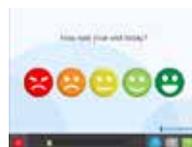
Ps 51:16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

=> how are YOU guilty of this (or tend towards this?)

2.4. not caring about God's moral law

Mic 6:6 With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Amos 5:21 “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. ²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!



Jer 7:9 Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? ¹¹ Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the Lord.

=> how are YOU guilty of this (or tend towards this?)

3. So what, for us?

Heb 3:15 As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

“Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. *We are far too easily pleased.*” (C S Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, p.26)

“Worship in the wrong direction is called idolatry. It’s called looking to anything other than God for our ultimate satisfaction, comfort, security, or joy. When I worship an idol, I’m saying “Fulfill me. Console me. Protect me. Rule me. You are worthy of my strength, time, energy and affections. Only you can make me completely happy.” (Bob Kauflin, *True Worshipers*, p.50)

“A good thing among many was turned into a supreme thing, so that its demands overrode all competing values. But counterfeit gods always disappoint, and often destructively so ... we think that idols are bad things, but that is almost never the case. The greater the good, the more likely we are to expect that it can satisfy our deepest needs and hopes. Anything can serve as a counterfeit god, especially the very best things in life.” (Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*, p.xvii)

So is there any hope?!

Ps 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;⁷ *for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.* Today, if only you would hear his voice,⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness ...

1 Jn 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

What I've learned (and my response)

Talk 3. The fulfilment of worship

Saturday Night

Is 55:1 Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

ES/AFES Doctrinal Basis Pt.5

Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute, of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

1. Jesus is ...

1.1. Jesus is THE object of our humble adoration

In his ministry

Mt 14:22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

In his resurrection

Mt 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In all eternity

Rev 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” ¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

1.2. Jesus is THE purifying sacrifice

Substitute:

Jn 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Heb 9:26 ... But he [Christ] has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

(High) Priest:

Heb 7:23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. ²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Place:

Mt 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Purifying sacrifice:

Heb 10:5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.’” ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1.3. Jesus is THE example of “all of life service”

Lk 22:39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. ⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

2. So what, for us?

2.1. do we continue in humble adoration? _____

Php 2:5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2.2. do we still need a purifying sacrifice? _____

i. no need for a priest

ii. no need for a temple

1 Cor 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

iii. no need for another sacrifice

a. forgiveness of ALL my sins (past, present and future)

“I follow Jesus not because he gives me things the world can offer; but for the things He gives which the world cannot!”
(Mamusha Fenta, Ethiopian Pastor)



b. humiliating (not just humbling)

God's
Redemption
At
Christ's
Expense

“The gospel is that we are more sinful than we ever dared believe, and more loved than we ever dared hope” (Tim Keller)

A (Brief) History of ES/AFES

1910 CICCU splits from SCM

1919 SCM proposes a merger with CICCU

“After an hour’s talk, I asked Rollo point-blank, “Does the SCM put the atoning blood of Jesus Christ central?” He hesitated, and then said, “Well, we acknowledge it, but not necessarily central.” Dan Dick and I then said that this settled the matter for us in the CICCU. We could never join something that did not maintain the atoning blood of Jesus Christ as its centre; and we parted company.” (Norman P Grubb, quoted in John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, p.8)

c. so what IS Holy Communion/Lord’s Supper/Eucharist/Mass?

2.3. should we offer all-of-life service? _____

Heb 9:13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Heb 13:11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

“God never intended us to exalt him on Sunday morning with other Christians and remain quiet about him the rest of the week. True worshipers can’t hold it in!” (Bob Kauflin, *True Worshipers*, p.67)

“I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise unless (sometimes even if) shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it. The world rings with praise - lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game - praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, motors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians or scholars. I had not noticed how the humblest, and at the same time most balanced and capacious, minds, praised most, while the cranks, misfits and malcontents praised least ... I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete until it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with.” (C S Lewis, *Reflections on The Psalms*, pp.94-95)

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Jn 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jn 4:13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

What I’ve learned (and my response)

Talk 4. Gospel-driven worship

Sunday Night

Ps 96:7 Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. ¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.” The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1. “In view of God’s mercy ...”

“indicative” =

“imperative” =



“The term “worship” is misunderstood if it gives the impression that the major element is what *human beings* do or offer to God. Biblical religion is primarily concerned with what *God* does for his people.” (IH Marshall, *New Bible Dictionary*, “Worship”, p.1250)

“Our first responsibility as Christians is not to give to God but to receive from him. More emphatically, we can say that when it comes to being a true worshiper, receiving from God is our calling from first to last” (Bob Kauffman, *True Worshipers*, pp.32-33)

1 Jn 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2. “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God”

3. Non-conforming, mind-renewing transformation so you can test and approve God's good, pleasing and perfect will

"You cannot judge a church's worship by what happens in the hour or so when they meet on a Sunday. The real test is how its members behave during the rest of the week. Are they conformists who fit into the world's mould? Or are they true worshippers who obey God?" (Vaughan Roberts, *True Worship*, p.24)

Rom 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

3.1. how you see yourself

Php 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

3.2. how you see other believers

Rom 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love.

Mt 5:21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Jn 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

3.3. how you see unbelievers

Rom 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵ Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Ps 96:7 Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

"All this suggests that the aim of all Christian preaching should be to bring people to worship Christ in the sense of yielding their allegiance to him as Saviour and Lord. "Bending over to the Lord" in NT terms means responding with repentance and faith to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who are concerned about God-honouring worship will be pre-occupied with bringing people to Christ!" (David Peterson, *Christian Worship*, p.27)

3 suggestions for “making disciples”:

i. Will you join the ES staff in our prayer for ES?

“Our **[prayerful]** desire is for every ESer to have the privilege of seeing a classmate become a Christian” (ES Nth Tce Staff Team)

ii. Will you become a gospel patron?

Php 4:14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.



iii. Will you consider vocational ministry for yourself?

*What can we do in God's work to prosper and increase
The Kingdom of the Living God, the reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God As the waters cover the sea?
Arthur Ainger (1841-1919)*

4. So what, for us?

Q1. How ought I feel about rewards?

Lk 19:16 The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’¹⁷ “Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

1 Cor 3:10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work.¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

“But not fame conferred by our fellow creatures - fame with God, approval or (I might say) “appreciation” by God. And then, when I had thought it over, I saw that this view was scriptural; nothing can eliminate from the parable the divine *accolade*, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” With that, a good deal of what I had been thinking all my life fell down like a house of cards. I suddenly remembered that no one can enter heaven except as a child; and nothing is so obvious in a child - not in a conceited child, but in a good child - as its great and undisguised pleasure in being praised. Not only a child, either, but even in a dog or a horse. Apparently what I had mistaken for humility had, all these years, prevented me from understanding what is in fact the humblest, the most childlike, the most creaturely of pleasures - nay, the specific pleasure of the inferior: the pleasure of a beast before men, a child before its father, a pupil before his teacher, a creature before its Creator.” (C S Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, pp.36-37)

Q2. Will some receive greater glory in heaven than others?

“Some Christians recoil at the thought that they will differ in the eternal state with respect to the degree of rewards meted out, contending that such differences would be the basis for one Christian lording it over another Christian. But this is to forget that glorified saints will be perfected in their love, not only for God, but for one another. The Christian with greater rewards will love the one with less rewards perfectly and will not exalt himself over him. The Christian with less rewards will love the one who has greater rewards also perfectly and will rejoice with him in his blessed state.” (R L Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith* (2nd edition), p.1022)

“When one has studied music and has attained some proficiency in playing a musical instrument, his capacity for enjoying music has been greatly increased. In a similar way, our devotion to Christ and to service in his kingdom increases our capacity for enjoying the blessings of that kingdom, both now and in the life to come. Leon Morris puts it aptly: “Here and now the man who gives himself wholeheartedly to the service of Christ knows more of the joy of the Lord than the half-hearted. We have no warrant from the New Testament for thinking that it will be otherwise in heaven.” (A J Hoeckema, *The Bible and the Future*, p.264)

“We must not be troubled by unbelievers when they say that this promise of reward makes the Christian life a mercenary affair. There are different kinds of rewards. There is the reward which has no natural connection with the things you do to earn it and is quite foreign to the desires that ought to accompany those things. Money is not the natural reward of love; that is why we call a man a mercenary if he marries a woman for the sake of her money. But marriage is the proper reward for a real lover, and he is not a mercenary for desiring it. A general who fights well in order to get a peerage is a mercenary; a general who fights for victory is not, victory being the proper reward of battle as marriage is the proper reward of love. The proper rewards are not simply tacked on to the activity for which they are given, but are the activity itself in consummation.” (C S Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, pp.26-27)

What I've learned (and my response)

Talk 5. “Praise and Worship”

Monday night

1. Some challenges with this talk

“We should not begin by asking whether or not we enjoy “worship,” but by asking, “What is it that God expects of us?” That will frame our proper response.” (Don Carson, *Worship by the Book*, p.29)

2. The prior question: why do we gather “in church”?

3 guiding principles:

i. true worship _____

ii. true worship _____

iii. true worship _____

“Whenever we gather for public worship, it is because we have been summoned. That is what “church” means: ekklesia, “called out”. It is not a voluntary society of those whose chief concern is to share, to build community, to enjoy fellowship, to have moral instruction for their children, and so forth. Rather, it is a society of those who have been chosen, redeemed, called, justified, and are being sanctified until one day they will finally be glorified in heaven. We gather each Lord’s Day not merely out of habit, social custom, or felt needs but because God has chosen this weekly festival as a foretaste of the everlasting Sabbath day that will be enjoyed fully at the marriage supper of the Lamb. God has called us out of the world and into his marvellous light: That is why we gather”. (Michael Horton, *A Better Way*, p.24)

3. The cultural question: why is music so important to us?

3 suggestions:

i.

ii.

iii.

Ps 96:1 *Sing* to the Lord a new song; *sing* to the Lord, all the earth. ² *Sing* to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

2 theological reasons why we sing in church ...

3.1. Singing to _____

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3.2. Singing to _____

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Q1. Which of these do you gravitate towards?

Q2. Which of these does your church emphasize?

*Indescribable, uncontainable, you placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name;
you are amazing God
All powerful, unchangeable, You see the depths of my heart and you love me the same, you
are amazing God
(Laura Story/Jesse Reeves)*

*Alleluia/Alleluia/Alleluia/Alleluia
We come together to praise your name/How great and wonderful are your deeds
We come together your people here/to encourage each other as the day draws near
We come together to hear your word/Please open our hearts to what is heard
(Nicky Chswell)*

“content is king”

“Worship never begins with us; it is always a response to the truth. It flows out of an understanding of who God is and what he has done for us in Christ. It begins with his revelation and redemption. So we must ensure that the Bible, which contains that revelation and points us to God’s work of redemption, stays right at the heart of our meetings and our own spiritual lives”. (Vaughan Roberts, *True Worship*, p.12)

Some common “how-should-we-sing-in-church” questions:

i. How much should we sing in church?

ii. How should I sing?

iii. What if I don’t feel like singing?

4. The pastoral question: how do I come into God's presence?

4.1. Somehow, in some way, we **can** draw nearer to God

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

4.2. Somehow, in some way, we are **already** seated in heaven with Christ

Eph 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

4.3. Somehow, in some way, the omnipresent God can **also** be localized

1 Ki 8:27 “But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!²⁸ Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.²⁹ May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, ‘My Name shall be there,’ so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.³⁰ Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

Q. How helpful are these statements during sung worship?

[] “Jesus is here because 3 of us have gathered in His name”

Mt 18:15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

[] “God is in the house/we are meeting with God today”

Mt 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The big issue: “WHY do you want to feel God’s presence so badly?”

“We may not feel God’s presence in every instance, and we may not experience his grace in the same measure each week, but the power is in God’s objective promise, not our subjective apprehension. As we sit there and are ourselves declared righteous by God in the gospel, we recognize that we are objectively accepted by God even though our experience often seems to tell us otherwise.” (Michael Horton, *A Better Way*, p.65)

5. The theological question: am I suffering from an over-realized eschatology?

“The promise of Scripture is that one day the Lord will dwell forever among his people in a direct manner - even face-to-face. But an over-realized eschatology is convinced that this is the way things are at present. God is regarded as so intimate, so visible among us, so fully and directly experienced in our hearts, that there is often little sense of God’s holiness, grandeur, sovereignty and transcendence. Even otherwise sound Christians can then easily succumb to the logic of paganism, where it is supposed that god or the gods can be conjured by following certain procedures - new measures, a magical prayer, the foolproof evangelistic technique. An over-realized eschatology will tend towards being one-sidedly “this worldly”. In other words, it will focus on what is happening to us and in us, claiming more success for the church and for individual sanctification and experience of God than is appropriate to this age. And as long as these “new measures” makes us feel that God’s presence is extraordinarily experienced, we will keep coming. If they fail, however, they will leave disillusionment in their wake. Weary of waiting for the promise that we have heard to be fulfilled, we try to force the promised future to become a reality prematurely by “staging” our own spectacle, making our own golden calf.” (Michael Horton, *A Better Way*, p.133)

6. The practical question: are we engaging in gospel-driven worship?

Uncle Geoff's checklist for a gospel-driven church meeting ...

[] how many minutes are spent singing, and how many hearing the bible read/explained?

[] is there a bible reading at all, and is it the basis of the message (or just a starting point)?

[] who has rehearsed more: the bible reader, or the band?

[] was there a confession of sin and assurance of forgiveness?

[] is Jesus the focus of the service (ie the one most-mentioned)?

“Vagueness about the object of our praise inevitably leads to making our own praise the object. Praise therefore becomes an end in itself, and we are caught up in our own “worship experience” rather than in the God whose character and acts are the only proper focus” (Michael Horton, *A Better Way*, p.26)

“We come with confidence but not with glibness; with gladness but not with greasy familiarity. We cling to Jesus Christ as our go-between instead of skipping into God's presence directly, one-on-one, face-to-face, because we have been reminded of his fearful and holy splendour. This is a distinctly Christian worship experience”. (Michael Horton, *A Better Way*, pp.165-6)

=> “what can I get out of this?”

=> “what can I give to God in this?”

=> “what might I receive from God in this?”

What I've learned (and my response)

Talk 6. The End of Worship

Tuesday morning

1. Humble adoration in eternity

Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Q. What’s the big idea?

Q. WHY is God worthy of all this never-ending praise and adoration?

A1. He _____

A2. He _____

A3. He _____

“Worship is the proper response of the creature to the Creator. Worship does not create something new; rather, it is a transparent response to what is, a recognition of our creaturely status before the Creator himself.” (Don Carson, *Worship by the Book*, p.29)

Q. What does this mean for evangelism?

A. The essence of sin is _____

Some possibilities ...

i.

ii.

2. Purifying sacrifice in eternity

Rev 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” ⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” ¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Q. How excited are YOU by the prospect of “never-ending praise”?!

3. All-of-life service in eternity

Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Q. What do you imagine you'll be doing for all eternity?

- v3 "his servants will serve him"

- v5 "they will reign forever"

*Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see thy great salvation, Perfectly restored in thee
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

What I've learned (and my response)

Memory Verses for MYC 2019 ...

“Worship”

Jn 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

Ps 51:16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

Heb 9:27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Recommended Reading

The Essentials

The New Bible Commentary and New Bible Dictionary (IVP: Leicester)

- the standard one-volume work which covers every book and theological term in the bible!

W A Elwell (ed), *The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984)

- the standard alphabetical one-volume work which covers most aspects of Christian theology

G Bray, *God is Love: A Biblical and Systematic Theology* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012)

- excellent one-volume work from a thoroughly reformed and evangelical perspective. Easy to read (believe it or not!)

M Horton, *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011)

- another excellent one-volume work from a reformed, evangelical perspective

B Milne, *Know the Truth: A handbook of Christian belief* (Leicester: IVP, 1982)

- standard (short!) one-volume work which covers all major Christian doctrines

G Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible* (Leicester: IVP, 1991)

- short but profound book proposing an integrating theme throughout the bible

V Roberts, *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* (Nottingham, IVP, 2009)

- simple, easy-to-read, essential for any Christian serious about reading any bit of the bible in proper context

D A Carson, *For the Love of God Vols 1 & 2* (Leicester: IVP, 1998)

- if you're serious about reading the whole bible, these 2 books follow Murray M'Cheyne's 1-year plan. Its strength is it encourages you to read your bible more than the notes!

J I Packer, *Knowing God* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1973, repr. 1975-91)

- John Stott was one of the earliest reviewers and was frustrated in his attempts to finish the book because it kept moving him to prayer: "The truth he handles fires the heart. At least, it fired mine, and compelled me to turn aside to worship and to pray"

D A Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation* (Baker, 2002)

- a brilliant and compelling summons to prayer based on Paul's prayers

T Keller, *The Reason for God* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2008)

- one of the best books on apologetics; written by a pastor (not just a theoretician)

L Brown, *Shining like stars: the power of the gospel in the world's universities* (Nottingham: IVP, 2006)

- the best book for university students to inspire you not to waste your life

Topic Specific

Bob Kauflin, *True Worshipers* (2015)

- excellent introductory book from one of the leading Music Directors currently

Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: When the Empty Promises of Love, Money and Power let you down* (2009)

- the title says it all! This is an excellent analysis of the idols in our lives: both how to identify them, and (more importantly) how the gospel of grace should shape our response

Vaughan Roberts, *True Worship* (2002)

- brilliant little book which examines all the major questions about "worship"

Bob Kauflin, *Worship Matters* (2008)

- outstanding, in-depth treatment of "worship" in every sense of the word; written primarily for worship leaders

Michael Horton, *A Better Way: Rediscovering the drama of Christ-centred Worship* (2003)

- easily the best book on the market for showing how the gospel of grace shapes everything we do in worship (not a light read, but well worth it ...)

David Peterson, *Engaging With God* (1992)

- arguably one of the most important books on the topic in the last 30 years: the author explores a "biblical theology of worship" by looking at how the pattern of worship is progressively revealed through Scripture