



GREATER WORSHIP

SERMON NOTES

Brooks Bias
03/08/26

DRIVING INTO CCO's PARKING LOT this morning, after having lost one hour of sleep because of D.S.T., we perceived *something* in the air. Definitely. Expectancy, I think. We were not finished with *relationships*. Not by a long shot. Our GREATER THAN series has already profoundly touched many lives! Today's fourth installment, zeroing in on *worship*, would be no exception! Steeped in Biblical wisdom and practical hands-on experience, Pastor Brooks' powerful message would not disappoint. We were sure of that! Affirmations of faith, one after another, came from the stage and lifted our praises to the rafters!

Your mercies are new every morning, Lord! shouted Pastor Marc. *God is faithful in and out of season! Give yourself a hand for making it to the first service on time! Also know that CCO is a church that wants to connect. With you! With each and everyone! Take a look at this!*

A video-collage of CCO's **DREAM TEAM DINNER** flashed on the screen with images of attendees who serve on a full spectrum of teams at CCO. Pastor Marc and Angie agreed that it was an exciting *event of appreciation* which recognized the faithful work of team members. Referencing Easter services, Pastor Marc and Angie continued, as Pastor Tara, *avec* rabbit ears, slowly made her way to stage center. She didn't hop to her place, but I suppose in her heart she did! Anyway, an on-screen QR code regarding all upcoming Easter festivities was referenced. **EGGSTRAVAGANZA**, a glow-in-the-dark experience, is scheduled on Saturday, April 4, 10am-noon. Plastic eggs and candy are still needed. There is a drop off box in the lobby or access our CCO website for alternate ways of contributing for this event. Lunch will be served at Saturday's Eggstravaganza which will serve as a great kickoff for CCO's Easter celebration.

On March 21, 9am-noon, CCO will hold a **CAMPUS CLEAN UP** day, Breakfast will be served before cleaning everything from baseboards to the offices, all to be rendered in order, hopefully, and squeaky clean by Easter!

Pastor Joshua stepped forward and he had something very important to say: *We celebrate this morning the goodness of God! Your grace is amazing, Lord. You gave the first offering, Your son. The church is not the building or this sanctuary; you all are the church! Jesus died and rose for each of us! Agreeing, the congregation began to applaud with great enthusiasm. We thank you, Jesus. And it is in the mighty and invincible Name of Jesus we pray today. The strong Son of God loves a cheerful*

giver. And with this we were reminded of the importance of giving. And, yes, our hearts were grateful for our many blessings, from our church, our faithful pastors, our dream team members and everything in between! We easily segued into a hearty rendition of IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU, followed by:

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh, we live for You

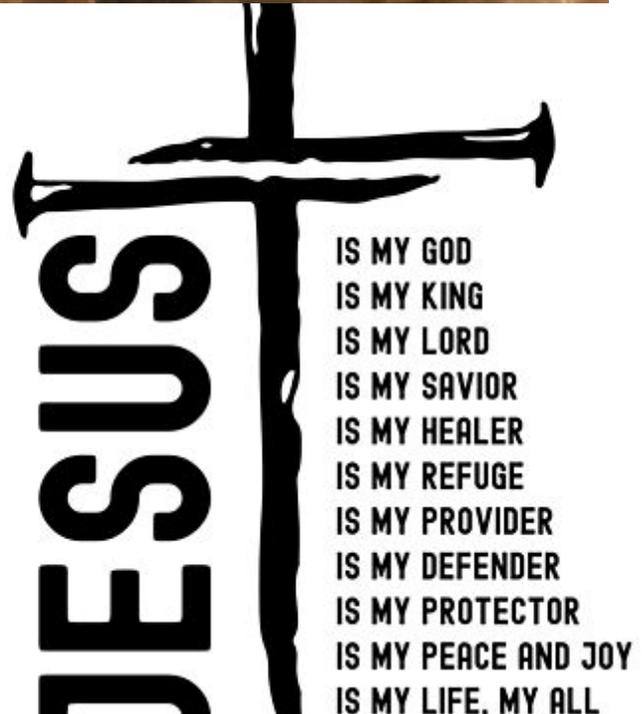
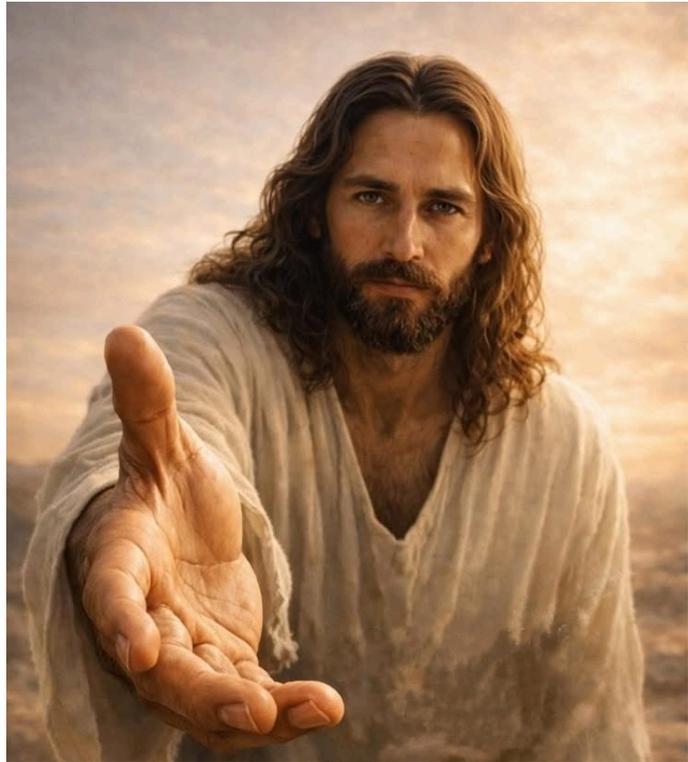
Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, we live for You

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh, we live for You

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

And I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken
And I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken



Thank you, Lord, that You have established Your covenant with us! shouted Pastor Marc, as Pastor Brooks stepped forward.

Are you glad to be in the House of the Lord this morning? asked Pastor Brooks. *It was unusual for me to be down there with you, worshipping this morning and it was great! I'm usually up here but it was great there! Worship. Today is going to be interactive, O.K.? That means you are going to be a big part of today's message.*

Remember when you were young, really young, around 5 or 10 years old? You know when there was little else except snacks and naps? What did you want to be when you grew up? Did you know that a prominent research group has compiled data which states that 43% of people realize their early dreams! Me? I was no where near what I wanted to be. I wanted to be Batman or someone like him! I'd jump off couches and chairs and easily play the part. Here's a photo of where I am now, said Pastor Brooks, as a photo of his wife Rebecca and two sons flashed up on the screen. *Handsome family. Well, let's take a look at worship, now that you know me a little better.*

CONSIDERING GREATER WORSHIP

1. WHY DO I EXIST? WHY AM I HERE?

- This question is one of the top five asked on the internet.
- The question here is found along with: *What is today? & Chuck Norris!*
- God created you with INTENTION.
- The Bible is God's love story.
- Greater worship comes when we know why we exist.
- Greater worship comes when we know that God *chose* to create us.
- We *exist* because God chose to create us.
- Genesis 1:1 KJV
- ***In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.***
- Simply and very importantly, before creation GOD **WAS**.
- John 17:4-5 NIV
- ***I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. [5] And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.***

INSIGHT: In John 17:4-5, Jesus tells the Father He has glorified Him on earth by completing His assigned mission. He then asks to be returned to

the divine glory He possessed alongside the Father before the world existed, marking the transition from His earthly ministry back to heavenly exaltation.

Key Aspects of John 17:4-5

Mission Accomplished (v. 4): Jesus declares His earthly work of revealing the Father and securing salvation is finished.

Divine Pre-existence (v. 5): Jesus affirms His divinity, referring to the glory He had before the world began.

Return to Glory (v. 5): Jesus asks for the restoration of His visible divine glory in the Father's presence, marking the completion of His incarnation.

Theme of Obedience: The passage highlights Jesus's perfect obedience in fulfilling the tasks given by the Father.

Unity of Father and Son: The passage emphasizes that by glorifying the Son, the Father is also glorified, as they are one.

DEEPER DIVE: John 17:4-5 is part of Jesus' "High Priestly Prayer," spoken just before his arrest in Gethsemane. In these verses, Jesus summarizes his earthly mission and requests a restoration of his eternal status:

Completion of Earthly Mission (Verse 4): Jesus declares that he has glorified the Father on earth by "finishing the work" assigned to him. While the crucifixion had not yet occurred, he speaks of it as already accomplished due to his absolute resolve to fulfill God's will.

Request for Eternal Glory (Verse 5): Jesus asks the Father to restore him to the divine glory he shared "before the world existed". This request highlights his preexistence and equality with God, looking past his current state of human humility toward his upcoming ascension and reunion with the Father.

Key Themes

Glory through Obedience: Jesus defines glorifying God as the perfect completion of the specific tasks and mission he was sent to perform.

Preexistence and Deity: By referencing a glory held "before the world began," Jesus affirms his eternal nature as part of the Trinity.

Incarnate Mediator: Commentaries note that Jesus asks to be glorified in his humanity, allowing him to remain the bridge between God and man even after returning to his heavenly state.

CONSIDER THIS:

- Out of His love, God created us.
- How much more excited we should be to be with Jesus in heaven.
- God is worthy!
- If God has given us *breath*, then for this alone and no more, He is worthy!
- God has given each of us *purpose*!
- Ever feel God is unreachable? Take a look at Psalm 139:13-16.
- Psalm 139:13-16 NIV
- ***For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. [14] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. [15] My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. [16] Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.***
- The above scripture should set us straight and put our minds at ease regarding our purpose and reason for existing.
- You are not here on earth by accident.
- Your reason for existence is to love and worship God Himself.

2. WE EXIST TO BEAR THE IMAGE OF GOD.

- Genesis 1:26 NIV
- ***Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."***

INSIGHT: *Imago Dei* (Latin for "Image of God") is a foundational theological concept from Genesis 1:26-27, stating humans are created in God's likeness, giving them inherent dignity, value, and purpose. It implies a unique human capacity for rational thought, morality, relationship with God, and stewardship of creation.

Key Aspects and Interpretations

Substantive View: Humans possess specific traits mirroring God, such as rationality, creativity, and moral consciousness.

Relational View: The image is defined by humanity's ability to have a direct, loving relationship with God and others.

Functional View: Humans act as God's representatives on Earth, exercising stewardship and dominion over creation.

Impact of the Fall: While the Imago Dei distinguishes humans from the rest of creation, it was distorted by sin.

Restoration: In Christian theology, the full restoration of this image is found through Jesus Christ, who is considered the ultimate representation of God.

Significance

The doctrine of the *IMAGO DEI* is central to Christianity, asserting that all humans possess intrinsic, non-negotiable value and dignity.

DEEPER DIVE: Imago Dei (*Latin for "Image of God"*) is a foundational theological concept in Judaism and Christianity asserting that human beings are uniquely created in the *likeness* of God. Unlike the rest of creation, which God spoke into existence "according to its kind," humans are described in Genesis 1:26–27 as being fashioned with a special divine *resemblance*.

Core Interpretations

Theologians generally categorize the meaning of *Imago Dei* into three primary perspectives:

Substantive View: Humans possess inherent divine traits or a specific "substance" like God. Historically, this has been identified with rational intelligence, self-consciousness, moral conscience, or the possession of an immortal soul.

Relational View: The image is not a static trait but is realized through relationship. Proponents like Karl Barth argue that just as God exists in a Trinitarian relationship, humans reflect God through their capacity for communion with Him and with others.

Functional View: This emphasizes humanity's role or "vocation". Humans act as God's representatives (*vice-regents*) on earth, tasked with ruling over and caring for creation as stewards.

Key Theological Implications

Human Dignity: The doctrine provides the moral and ethical grounding for the sanctity of human life. Because every person bears this image, they possess inherent worth regardless of race, gender, age, or ability.

The Fall: In Christian tradition, sin is seen as having "marred" or distorted this image, though not destroying it. It is like a "carnival mirror"—the reflection is still there but is broken or blurry.

Christ as the Perfect Image: The New Testament identifies Jesus Christ as the "exact representation" and perfect image of the invisible God. Believers are called to be renewed and conformed to His likeness through the process of redemption.

CONSIDER THIS:

- We are designed by God to *reflect* Him.
- When sin entered into the equation, the original reflection became fractured and distorted.
- John 13:35 NIV
- ***By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.***

AS WE BEAR THE IMAGE OF GOD WE ALSO BEAR THE SCARS OF SIN.

- God sees our weaknesses, every one of them.
- God still loves us but not our sin.
- Bring your *brokenness* to God with a humble heart.
- Ask: *When people look at my life, WHO do they see?* Think about that!

3. WE EXIST FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

- God is worthy! Completely, ultimately and forever WORTHY!
- To lift Him high means to proclaim Him worthy!
- Our joy in knowing God causes us to worship Him in a deeper way!
- God's glory is deeply satisfying!

GOD'S GLORY IS DEEPLY SATISFYING!

INSIGHT: God's glory is the manifestation of His infinite beauty, worth, and perfections (*love, mercy, justice, power*). It is the central theme of the Bible, representing the tangible, radiant presence of God. This divine splendor is revealed through creation, providence, and redemption, and is to be reflected by humanity.

Key Aspects of God's Glory:

Definition: It is the "weight" or "heaviness" (*kavod*) of God's character and presence.

Revelation: God reveals His glory through creation (*nature*), divine acts (*e.g., the tabernacle*), and ultimately through Jesus Christ.

Purpose: The ultimate goal of history and salvation is for God's glory to be known, worshipped, and treasured.

Human Response: Believers are called to glorify God by reflecting His character, obeying Him, and thanking Him.

Attributes: It encompasses all of God's attributes, including His goodness, mercy, and wrath against sin.

CONSIDER THIS:

- People long for satisfaction.
- People chase after cars, jobs, money, partying.
- But nothing in this life can FILL that void except God Himself.
- Psalm 39:4-6 NIV
- ***Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. [5] You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. [6] "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.***
- My days are literally numbered.
- I am totally dependent on God.
- Dependent upon my next breath.
- I am called to WORSHIP God with everything I am and have!
- Abundant life in God is more than gaining the entire world.
- I am primarily called to love and WORSHIP God.

EXAMPLE: Years ago when I was a kid, every summer I went to camp. I was a competitive kid so when an award of keeping the best bed in camp was going to come available, I thought this was something I could definitely win. What I did was simply sleep on the floor in my sleeping bag; my bed stood prim and wrinkle-free. BTW, my sheets were ironed prior to camp! Anyway, time moved on and I thought I had it in the bag. Not so. The word got out. Someone told the counselor who told the dean and the rest is history, I suppose. My agenda was exposed, thoroughly! I had manipulated my purpose at camp. Sound familiar?

God has designed us perfectly. He has even placed within each of us His imago dei! (Image of God). We created to worship God. But sometimes we come to church and get upset with things like set lists or other things which are found in the routine of running a church or preparing the sanctuary for worship or rehearsing specific music for that worship. Why should we ever waste a second? Remember, you have a purpose and that is to, when all is said and done, to worship and love God. Keep your eyes and heart focused on God!

4. WE MUST ALIGN OUR HEARTS WITH THE WORSHIP IN WHICH GOD DELIGHTS.

- Remember the Pharisees and Sadducees?
- They were steeped in Scripture but still missed the mark. God's mark!
- Both religious groups worked to take Jesus down.
- Jesus' answers (*during his trial especially*) flipped their expectations.
- So, it's not religion or even Scripture memorization that really counts!
- It's RELATIONSHIP with God.
- It's WORSHIPPING God.

5. OUR MAIN DESIRE MUST BE THE LORD GOD HIMSELF.

- Psalm 39:4-6 NIV
- ***Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. [5] You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. [6] "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.***
- We are called to WORSHIP God passionately.
- We are called to worship God with everything we have.
- We are called to worship God with our total being! Think about that!

- Psalm 35:9-10 NIV
- ***Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation. [10] My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.***
- God Himself SATISFIES us more than anything!

EXAMPLE: *In Kenya, Africa, there is a tiny church, a one room affair, which on Sundays is packed with 3-4 generations of believers who have walked many miles to worship together. Consider the woman and her child who were satisfied to sit on the steps outside just to be nearby the presence of God, to worship Him and be guided by His Holy Spirit. There were no complaints that the church was filled. Her Holy Spirit-driven humble spirit says it all. She was quite ready to worship, whether sitting inside or upon the outdoor steps. Think about that for a moment and what we have all around us here in the U.S.A.*

On fire with the Holy Spirit, Pastor Brooks continued: *Our cry at CCO is to fully worship God! This is our desire. Our deepest desire. Some of us are trying to figure out all this Jesus-stuff. And that's O.K. We hear you. But there is more. For you. For all of us. **Are you saying inside: 'I'm ready to experience Jesus for the first time or I'm ready for a fresh touch?'** O, God, would you pour Your Spirit upon us now? Help us to abandon the world and its ways. We lift up to You, O Lord, all of our prayer and praise. We worship You for Who You are! And with this we raised our hands in great joy, as we began to sing.*

OUR GREATEST WORSHIP IS TO BEAR HIS IMAGE TO OTHERS!

**The splendor of a King,
clothed in majesty**
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice

**He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide**
The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing
with me
How great is our God, and all
will see

How great, how great is our
God

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Name above all names

(how great is our God, sing with me)
Worthy of our praise

(how great is our God, and all will see)
My heart will sing
How great is our God

You're the name above all names

(how great is our God, sing with me)
You are worthy of our praise

(how great is our God, and all will see)
And my heart will sing
How great is our God

