

The Beauty of Worship (*Abstract*)

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Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool, what kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things? (Acts 7:49)

How beautiful worship can be is not decided by us human beings, but by the Triune God. It is a matter of spirit, not something that comes from us. *Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool*, God does not need anything from us to make Him beautiful, to satisfy Him, but in the worship God reveals His mystery and shares with us His beauty, His holiness, His goodness, His greatness. In worship we are united with Him as Triune God, this is the beauty of worship.

The Beauty of the Father - Holy is the Lord

Through baptism the holiness of the Lord comes upon us. Through baptism, the church enters into the beauty of the Father.

The Beauty of the Son - Good is the Lord

Through our following of Jesus, the Word becomes flesh because of His goodness, the beauty of the Son is magnified through us in our life. Through following the Word, the church enters the beauty of the Son.

The Beauty of the Spirit - Great is the Lord

Through Holy Communion, in the work of the Holy Spirit we commune with God in flesh and also we foretaste the fullness of communion with God in spirit. That means in

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our heavenly new body, like the body of Jesus which is the glorious body, we commune with God fully. The heavenly banquet is not literally eating together with God, but the complete “communion” with Him, sharing His glory, His greatness, His fullness, His perfectness.

The beauty of the Holy Spirit is magnified through Holy Communion. Through Holy Communion the church, the body of Christ, foretastes the heavenly “communion”. Through Holy Communion, the church enters the beauty of the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8:9)

Everything is from Him and everything is for Him: baptism is the death of Jesus, the Word of God is the living of Jesus, Holy Communion is the second coming of Jesus. Through Jesus, in baptism the church enters the holiness of the Triune God, in following the Word of God the church enters the goodness of the Triune God, in Holy Communion the church enters the glory, the greatness of the Triune God. Therefore, the beauty of worship from the perspective of the Triune God is to accept baptism rightly, to follow the Word of God rightly, to accept Holy Communion rightly.¹

When the Triune God - the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit is glorified and magnified through our acceptance of baptism, following the Word, and acceptance of Holy Communion, the Beauty is within the Worship naturally.

In Worship, God invites us into His Trinity, into His Being. The Beauty of Worship is the Beauty of God Himself.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8:9)

1 Please see my book, Chang Yu Wen, *The Weapon of Post-Modern Churches - Mystery* (Hong Kong: Taosheng Publishing House, 2006) in Chinese. I have some sharing on the meaning of rightly understanding baptism, the Word of God, and Holy Communion.