

# *A CALL TO WORSHIP*



by  
Evangelist Norman R. Stevens

## A CALL TO WORSHIP

Please open your Bibles to Psalm chapter ninety-five and verse six. I would like to preach a message entitled "A Call to Worship."

It is my desire to say something today that would cause you to worship and adore the Lord Jesus Christ. Not enough is said about worship today. Worship is the very act of recognizing that high place which God deserves. Worship is the very act of giving unto God the glory, the honor, the worship, and the praise that is due unto His holy name.

It is not enough merely to think about God. It is not enough merely to talk about God. You must worship God; and you must render to God the glory, the honor, the worship, and the praise that is due unto His holy name. You say, preacher! Why must I render to God glory, honor, worship, and praise? I will give you two reasons why. First, God deserves it. God deserves the worship and the praise of His children. And second, God desires it. God desires the worship and the praise of His children. In Psalm 95:6, the Bible says, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

What are you trying to say? I am simply saying this. There is not enough true worship among God's people today. God's people are too busy being entertained by the world to truly worship Him. God's people live in a television society. They want music that tickles the nervous system. They want books that make them laugh and weep. God's people want very little preaching that would cause their hearts and minds to be taken away from their problems, to be taken away from their needs, and to look toward Jesus Christ and simply adore Him.

Did you know that the Christian life boils down to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

My dear friend, if you do not know Jesus Christ, as your own personal Saviour, you cannot truly worship God.

You can come to a service such as this. You can sing songs of worship and praise. You can even talk nobly about God. But if you have never been cleansed by the shed blood of Christ, if you have never been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, your worship and your praise are not acceptable to God.

Now there is hope for you. If you want your worship and your praise to be acceptable to God, you must first come by way of the cross. There is no other way. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And that is why the religions of the world are not going to save mankind – they miss the person of Jesus Christ. Only in the Christian faith is there a salvation that is secure. Salvation only exists in Jesus Christ. In Acts 4:12, the Bible says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

You say, Preacher! What must I do to be saved? You need to exercise faith in the gospel message. In I Corinthians 15:3-4, the Apostle Paul said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

When a man hears the gospel (and that is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) and with a repentant heart receives that gospel as the only hope of his salvation, that man is saved. In Acts 3:19, the Bible says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." In Acts 17:30, the Bible says, "...God commandeth all men every where to repent." This repentance is a change of mind that agrees with God that one is a sinner. In Romans 5:12, the Bible says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And also agrees with what Christ did for us on Calvary's cross some 2,000 years ago. He became our substitute. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he [God] hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ. In John 1:12, the Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." To believe on Christ is to receive Christ. To receive Christ is to believe on Christ. Simply believe on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead.

In Romans 10:9-10, the Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." In Romans 10:13, it says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on the cross of Calvary. He died for you; He was buried for you; and He rose again the third day for you. And nothing would thrill Him any more than to save you today so that your worship and your praise are acceptable to God; and, with that salvation, you will receive forgiveness of all your sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven when you die.

If you know Jesus Christ, you owe that salvation to the Son of God.

Let me take just a few minutes to tell you about Jesus Christ. No one ever cared for me like Jesus. I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus. He changed my life completely. He did something that no other friend could do. O, how He cared for me!

Christianity is, at its very heart, the person of Jesus Christ. He is all together lovely. He is the fairest of the fair.

No one in heaven rivals the majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 1:6, the Bible says, "...And let all the angels of God worship him."

In Luke 1:32, the Bible says, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest..." In Isaiah 9:6, the Bible says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

No one upon the earth rivals the majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Matthew 3:17, God the Father said, "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." In Philippians 2:9-11, the Bible says, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In John 3:30, John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." In Colossians 1:17-18, the Apostle Paul said, "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

In Hebrews 12:3, the Bible says, "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, let ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

In I Timothy 6:15-16, the Bible says, "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."

In Revelation 22:16, the Lord Jesus said, "...I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

Everything about Jesus Christ is outstanding and extraordinary. Jesus Christ has made the difference; not the church, not religion, not morality, not Christian teaching, but Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has made the difference.

To talk of Jesus Christ is to talk of a miracle. In John 3:2, the Bible says, "...Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

Jesus is wonderful in His origin. He came forth from eternity. He came forth from the very presence of God the Father. In John 1:1-2, the Bible says, "In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." In John 8:58, Jesus said, "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

Listen! Jesus Christ is the only human being that ever walked the earth who lived before He came here. Jesus Christ who had His human origin upon the earth nevertheless came from eternity.

Jesus is wonderful in His very nature. He is God Almighty. In John 10:36, Jesus said, "...I am the Son of God." In Hebrews 1:1-3, the Bible says, "God, who at sundry times

and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoke unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Jesus Christ is not like anyone else. You cannot compare Him to Mohammed. You cannot compare Him to Buddha. You cannot compare Him to the Apostle Paul. He was God Almighty in human flesh.

Jesus is wonderful in His birth. In Isaiah 7:14, the Bible says, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." In Matthew 1:20-21, the Bible says, "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

In Luke 1:35, the angel said, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

Mary understood that. When the angel used those words "come upon thee," and overshadow thee," he used words that made her understand something of the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, when God's glory would come upon the temple or an individual, He would come in great power; and His glory would settle upon individuals.

When she heard the angel say, "...the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee," she knew that soon she would be wrapped up in the Spirit of God to such a degree that He would place in her virgin womb the seed of the Son of God. Jesus, who created flesh, was made flesh.

So let me ask you something. When was Jesus made flesh? He was made flesh when a Jewish virgin who had never known a man gave birth to the only baby who never had an earthly father.

Jesus is outstanding and extraordinary in His life. He was without sin. He was incapable of sinning. He was the only sinless Person to ever walk the earth. In Hebrews 4:15, the Bible says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

In John 8:46, Jesus said, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" Jesus stood one day in the presence of His enemies and said that. Those who hated Jesus Christ would have said something if they could. His enemies had to remain silent, for they had to agree with Pilate. In Luke 23:4, Pilate said, "...I find no fault in this man."

Listen! Jesus never sinned. Jesus never lost his temper. He never cheated. He never said a wrong word. He never did anything wrong. He was always right. He never

owed any man an apology. He never had to say "I am sorry." He never had to say "I was wrong." In Hebrews 7:26, the Bible says, "For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners..."

Jesus is wonderful in His teaching. The men and women who heard Jesus preach and teach some 2,000 years ago around the Sea of Galilee, in the streets of Jerusalem, in Samaria, on the hillsides, were all astonished at His doctrine; for, they said, "No man taught as this man." In other words, He did not preach and teach as the Sadducees and Pharisees of His day. He taught as one having authority.

In Matthew 7:28, the Bible says, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these saying, the people were astonished at his doctrine." When Jesus finished a sermon, people stood with their mouths open; they could not believe what they heard. Their ears were astonished at the greatness of what He said.

In Matthew 7:29, the Bible says, "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." No man taught like Jesus taught. No man taught with authority like Jesus taught. No man understood spiritual things as well as Jesus Christ did.

Those who reject His Deity, those who reject His virgin birth are still obligated to admit that there has been no finer teaching uttered by humankind than the words that came from Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus is glorious in His death. He died in the place of sinners. He died for you and He died for me. In John 3:16, the Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

In Acts 2:23, the Bible says, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." In Romans 5:8, the Bible says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

If you could go back on the hill of Golgotha 2,000 years ago, you would see one hanging there between heaven and earth, on an old rugged cross between two thieves – the Lord Jesus Christ. And you would see Him there dying the horrible death of crucifixion for you and for me.

Many a man has died the death of crucifixion but nobody ever died like Jesus died.

In the first place, Jesus was totally sinless and undeserving of any death of any kind personally. Yet here He was dying in the place of sinful men. Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he [that is God] hath made him [that is Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

You say, preacher! What are you trying to say? I am simply saying this. The Baby of Bethlehem grew into manhood; and on Calvary's cross, He took my sins and your sins upon Himself and paid the full penalty. And down through the centuries, every child of God has rejoiced to know his sins have been paid for. Jesus paid it all. And by simple faith alone in Christ Jesus, he is the possessor of life eternal.

Jesus is glorious in His death. In John 19:30, Jesus said, "...It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." Nobody died like Jesus died.

Jesus is glorious in His resurrection. He rose from the dead to die no more. He conquered death and the grave for our justification. He saved us from the penalty of sin. He saved us from the power of Sin. And, praise the Lord, one of these days we shall be saved from the very presence of sin itself.

In Acts 2:24, Peter stood on the day of Pentecost and said, "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

There was a day when death met its Master. Jesus Christ walked out of the tomb with the keys of death and hell upon His girdle. He died but He rose from the dead. In I Corinthians 15:3-4, the Bible says, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Jesus is wonderful in His ascension. He ascended into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, where He reigns in glory as the Creator of the universe, where He is making intercession for me, and for you if you are born again.

In Hebrews 9:24, the Bible says, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into the heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"

From the time Jesus went back to heaven, unto this very hour, He has been praying for you. He prays day and night. He prays all the time. He constantly makes intercession for you. In Romans 8:34, the Bible says, "...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

In His present ministry, He is the perfect High Priest. He is pleading for us against our accuser. In Revelation 12:10, the Bible says, "For the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

In His future return, He shall be hailed as the King of kings and Lord of lords. If that's not glorious, what is? You can mark it down, my friends. There is no one in all the world like the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. He is glorious!

It was my desire to say something today that would cause you to worship and adore, that would cause you to love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Remember!

God's people are so busy that they often miss the Master. God's people see what He has done for them, but too many times they miss Jesus Christ. They are caught up in so many things so much so that Jesus Christ is often pushed further and further back to the point that worshiping Christ is an inconvenience, that going to church on Sunday and Wednesday is an inconvenience and in the way. That is not right. The Lord Jesus Christ ought not to be treated that way.

Listen! If Jesus Christ has saved you from your sins. You ought to worship Him. You ought to love Him. You ought to long to hear Him preached. You ought to long to tell others about Jesus Christ because you love Him.

You ought to love Him who is all together precious. In Ephesians 6:24, the Bible says, "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

Perhaps you like Jesus Christ, but do you truly love Him? In John 21:15, Jesus said, "...Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?"

I hope you love the Lord Jesus Christ. And if you love Him, I hope you will live an obedient life. I hope you will not go out and sin against Him. I hope you will not grieve the Holy Spirit of God living in you. I hope you will not disobey the Word of God. I hope you will keep His commandments. In John 14:21, Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."

If you love Jesus Christ, you will keep His commandments; and if you don't love Jesus Christ, you will not keep His commandments. It is that simple.

In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In I John 5:3, the Bible says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

If you are not living an obedient life today, there is one simple conclusion. You do not love the Lord Jesus Christ. You like Him. You appreciate Him, but you do not love Him. So don't go around saying, "Jesus I love you," if you are not going to do what the Bible says to do, and if you are going to do what it says not to do. In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

I am simply saying this. You show the measure of your love toward Christ by your measure of obedience to the Word of God.

So let me ask you something. Why don't you give your life to Jesus Christ? Why don't you turn your life over to Him?

In Mark 8:34-35, Jesus said, "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

If I could get you to do something today, it would be this. Give your life to Jesus Christ. Give your life to the Son of God. Give Him your talents. Give Him your time. Give Him your treasures. Give Him yourself totally. Yield to Him all this. Hold back nothing. Give Him your life and serve Him. In Colossians 3:24, the Bible says, "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Evangelist Norman R. Stevens  
602 Canterbury Road  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
Phone: (813) 760-4028  
E-mail: [evangelistnormanstevens@live.com](mailto:evangelistnormanstevens@live.com)  
<http://www.evangelistnormanstevens.com>