



# TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

## Benefits of Worship

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Robert Webber related an exchange that began with a query by “a young person who objected to what she felt was the ‘egocentricity’ of God.” Why does he want every created thing to praise *him*? Does this not show him to be self-centered? A more mature believer responded:

God only wants us to speak the truth about him. Even as in our own personal worth we appreciate people telling the truth about us and shy away from those who either overestimate or underestimate us, so God wants us to speak the truth about him. The truth is that he is the Creator, that he is ultimate, that he is the highest, the holiest, the one most perfect in his being. Now what would you think of God if he were to shuffle his feet in celestial dust and say, “Aw shucks,” refusing to be honest about himself? (Robert Webber, *Common Roots: A Call to Evangelical Maturity* [Zondervan, 1978], 85)

That’s a helpful explanation of why God desires our worship. But some ask, how do we benefit from worship (a question that might reveal our own “egocentricity”!)? Consider Everett Harrison’s definition of worship as “the soul’s preoccupation with the Almighty in the attitude of adoration” (*The Apostolic Church* [Eerdmans, 1985], 131). That definition comports with Isaiah’s response upon seeing God’s glory. The prophet’s preoccupation with the Lord led him to better see his need for God and that in turn prompted him to express his unreserved commitment to the Lord and begin a dedicated, and at times arduous, life of service (Isa 6.1-13).

It is in acknowledging God’s majesty—his holy nature that he expects us to be truthful about—that the worshiper derives the deepest and most lasting benefit. When we are preoccupied with God, we rightly see ourselves, both as we really are and as we can be. That clarity of perspective motivates us to better reflect his glory in our daily routines. To put it another way, regular preoccupation with God can help us become better people.

How beneficial is that?

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