

## John's Doxology

No. 215

### Introduction.

I. Years ago Tillit S. Teddlie wrote these words praising Christ.

Worthy of praise is Christ our Redeemer, Worthy of glory, honor and pow'r! Worthy of all our souls adoration, Worthy art Thou! Worthy art Thou!	Lord, may we come before Thee with singing, Filled with thy spirit, wisdom and pow'r; May we ascribe Thee glory and honor, Worthy art Thou! Worthy art Thou!
Lift up the voice in praise and devotion, Saints of all earth before Him should bow: Angels in heaven worship Him saying, Worthy are Thou! Worthy art Thou!	Chorus: Worthy of riches, blessings and honor, Worthy of wisdom, glory and pow'r! Worthy of earth and heaven's thanksgiving Worthy art Thou! Worthy art Thou!

#### A. Indeed, Christ is worthy of all ours soul's adoration.

1. He should be lifted up and magnified. His virtues should be extolled.
2. He is Redeemer, Lord, King, and Friend. He is Ruler over heaven and earth and without equal.

B. We should never neglect to recognize the exalted Christ and should exalt Him every day with the praise He deserves.

II. I would like for us to study "John's Doxology" of Christ found in Revelation 1, verses 4-6.

**REV 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne; 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

III. The apostle's words, I have just read, are a beautiful and sublime doxology of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. There are a number of lessons we can learn from this doxology.
- B. Each of these lessons are important and worthy of our prayerful consideration.

I. **Christ Should Be Praised** - John teaches us that Christ should be praised. Note the graphic description John gives of Christ.

A. In the first place, he say Jesus is **“the faithful witness.”**

1. Christ witnessed the truth of God. (Jn. 1:14; 14:6; 8:32; 17:17).
2. He faithfully witnessed the truth of God throughout His life even unto death and now was going to reveal some future events through John.

B. In the second place, John says Jesus was **“the firstborn of the dead.”**

1. Paul set forth this same fact. (Col. 1:18).
2. The words “the firstborn of the dead” do not mean Jesus was the first to be raised from the dead. We have examples of people being raised from the dead during the Old Testament period of history and Christ raised Lazarus, Jarius’ daughter, and others from the dead.
3. By these words John means that Jesus was the first to be raised from the dead who would never die again. All others who were raised had to die again.
  - a. Not so with Christ! Forty days after Jesus was raised from the dead, He ascended to be with the Father in heaven.
  - b. **Christ is alive and He will live forever.** (Rev. 1:17b, 18).
  - c. He will give eternal life to all who will trust in Him and obey Him. (Jn. 3:36; 6:47; 11:25; Heb. 5:9.).

C. In the third place, John says that Jesus is **“the ruler of the kings of the earth.”**

1. When He ascended to be at the right hand of the Father, His glorious reign began.
2. Christ reigns at the side of the Father and possesses supreme authority. (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 12:48).
3. Paul tells us that because of his humility in submitting to death God “exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name.” (Phil. 2:9).
4. **Christ will reign until the end of time.** At His coming He will put all of His enemies under His feet and then relinquish His authority to the Father. (1 Cor. 15:22-28).

**1CO 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.**

**28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.**

## II. **Reasons We Should Praise Christ** - John teaches us in his doxology the reasons why we should praise Christ.

### A. We should praise Christ because **“he loves us.”**

1. The tense in the original Greek is present, not past as in the KJV. This reminds us that the Savior’s love is continuous, unbroken.
2. His love did not end with His death. His love only led Him to die for us, but also to provide all else for our salvation and hereafter.

### B. We should praise Christ because of **what He did for us.**

1. He “loosed” (or washed) us from our sins by His blood.
2. Jesus loved us more than we can fathom or ever fully comprehend. Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross that we might have salvation. (Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7).

### C. We should praise Christ because of **what He had made of us.**

1. Christ has made us **“to be a kingdom.”**
  - a. Christ loosed us from our sins, then ennobled us. He has made us a part, citizens of His glorious kingdom.
  - b. One becomes a part of the kingdom when he is born again. (Jn. 3:5).
2. Christ has also made us **priests.**
  - a. Every citizen of Christ’s kingdom is a priest.
  - b. Every Christian has the privilege and the responsibility of offering spiritual sacrifices to God. (1 Pet. 2:5).

## III. **Worthy Of More Praise** - John teaches us in his doxology that Christ is worthy of more praise.

A. He closes this doxology by saying **“to him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”** Observe his praise of Christ is two-fold.

### B. **As one examines the book of Revelation he finds the praise of the apostle increases.**

1. His praise is threefold in chapter **4:11**.

**REV 4:11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."**

2. His praise is fourfold in chapter **5:13b**.

**"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."**

3. His praise is sevenfold (perfect praise) in chapter **5:12**.

**"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."**

- C. John was indeed impressed with the incomparable greatness of Jesus and may his words motivate us to praise Christ with our words and deeds.

## Conclusion.

### I. **Appended to John's doxology** is this promise of the Lord's coming. (Rev. 1:7).

A. John assures us here and throughout the book that Jesus will come again.

B. He will come with the clouds and every eye shall see Him.

1. The **righteous** will look upon His coming with great joy.

2. The **wicked** will look upon His coming with terror.

a. They will weep and mourn a curse the day of their birth, but this will avail them nothing.

b. They will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be condemned to the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15).

### II. **Since Christ is coming again to judge all men**, it behooves us to be ready for this great day.

A. A **motorist once came to a long bridge** where a sign read, "No Passing on Bridge." A slow driver just in front of him wore his patience thin. In exasperation he swung his car into the other lane, and glared at the slow driver as he passed him. A highway patrolman at the end of the bridge signaled him to stop. The officer said, "You saw the sign, 'No Passing,' didn't you?" The motorist replied, "Certainly." The officer asked, "Well, then why did you pass the car?" His subdued reply was, "Officer, to be very frank, I didn't expect you at the end of the bridge."

### B. **God stands across life's short span or bridge.**

1. God knows what we are thinking. He knows what we are doing. He knows the way we are living. He has told us He will send Christ again to judge the world.

2. **As sure as Christ died and rose again from the dead** and ascended into heaven, He will come again. It is our responsibility to make preparation. The King of kings will bless those who are ready with abundant blessings in heaven.

### III. We urge those who are not Christians to come to Christ and give your life to Him. Come as we stand and sing.

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