

Rebel to Worshiper

"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness" (Psalm 29:2).

The fiery pastor and theologian of the past, AW Tozer, stated that: *"Jesus was born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross, and rose from the grave to make worshipers out of rebels!"* In other words, Tozer wanted his hearers and readers to understand that we were saved for more... We were saved by the mercies and lovingkindness of God, not just so we could float with the angels in the clouds one day in the future, as some might think. But as stated often around our church: "We were saved to serve!"

I have shared this story from the pulpit before, and I'll do so by pen here. I once knew a man who served the Lord Jesus with so much passion and joy... This man was a teacher/coach in the public school system and led the youth group at his church. And when you listened to him preach a message from the Word, you could certainly know that his heart was captivated by the gospel, and He knew the Lord in a deep personal way. I remember asking him in a conversation about how he served with such gladness and steadfastness. And how he continued to fight the good fight of faith despite the challenges of life and ministry. And I'll never forget what he said... "Dalton, I have a lot of gratitude." Yes, it wasn't that he was an expert in theology, or knew more of the Bible than anyone else, or was more gifted in certain areas, but the bottom line is that this man was beyond thankful for all that the Lord Jesus had done for him. And that's the key to our heart of worship: gratitude for God's saving gospel!

Now, when we take this man's simplistic yet spiritual approach to the Christian life alongside Tozer's famous quote about being taken from rebel to worshiper. Let me ask you, are you grateful that Jesus saved you to serve Him? Are you grateful that Jesus took you from rebel to worshiper? And will you worship Him with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength in all that you do?

You see, your main reason for existence is to worship God. And your main reason of being born again in Christ is for you to be a worshiper. Unfortunately, in our personal walks and as a church at large, there are times when we lose this focus. Before the church is called to sing, preach, pray, launch ministries, lead camps, hand out food, visit the sick, and take on a variety of programs, we must first seek to be worshipers. Please know that everything I just listed that takes place in the life of the church is an aspect of worship and should be considered worship. But what I want to key on is the heart behind it all... Are you truly serving, living, and doing all that you do for Jesus with a grateful heart? Do you see yourself as a once rebel, now born again in Jesus and for Jesus worshiper?

This is our highest calling. This is our divine privilege. This is the Christian life: To worship the Most High God as He deserves to be worshipped! And so may our tongues of praise, hands of action, and most importantly our hearts of gratitude be: *"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"* (Revelation 5:13).

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis