

When Jesus claimed to be worthy of his worship, it infuriated the religious leaders of his day who heard his claims of being the Messiah, of being "equal to God". This was the root of their efforts to have him executed and they tried all the more to kill him. Not only was Jesus breaking the Sabbath law, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal

with God. (John 5:18) During his last night with the disciples, Jesus pointed to the countless miracles his followers had seen and then spoke very plainly to them. "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, `Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:9-14)

Was Jesus worthy of praise and worship then? Yes, totally and fully because he was/is one with the Father Almighty God. Let us not forget that even God demanded praise and glory long before Jesus' ministry and still does. King David said in Psalm 145:3, *Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.*" Throughout the entire Bible there are many references where God/Jesus are worthy of praise and worship. This becomes the Christian's obligation to continually worship and praise the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit only as one Entity).

There is a wonderful song entitled: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," which when sung you should "fix your thoughts on Jesus" and praise His name always. In Hebrews 3:1 are these words: "Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess." Jesus askes this from all who followed him. Surrounded by his pending death, Jesus turned to the disciples and ask them (and each of us today): "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15) And Peter replied "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.". (Matthew 16:16) This is a main reason that we should give God praise and glory...He is worthy of our worship and praise.

Compiled and Presented by Rev. Ted Althouse, Pastor-The Chapel of Cypress Cove