

April 17, 2011
"The Worthiness of the Lamb"
Revelation 5

I. He is worthy to take the scroll and open it's seals –

1. This is important because no one else is able to do this –

And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. (Revelation 5:3-4 NKJ)

2. This is also important because of the scroll itself –

Chapters 6-7 and verse 1 of chapter 8 of Revelation speak specifically about the opening of the seals of this scroll. Since the trumpets and bowls seemingly come out of this scroll, this scroll seems to contain all the decrees of God regarding the advancement of God's Kingdom.

Its description is wonderful – And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. (Revelation 5:1 NKJ)

1. Written inside and on the back, implies it is full of writing!
2. Sealed with seven seals (seven being the number of perfection and completion) implies it contains God's decrees regarding the completion OF WHAT? His Kingdom? Of EVERYTHING? Of Time? Likely, all of the above!
3. Christ taking and opening the seals, implies He executes God's decrees which ultimately advance His Kingdom

<A Psalm of David.> The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."² The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! (Psalm 110:1-2 NKJ)

²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. (1 Corinthians 15:23-25 NKJ)

II. He is worthy because of His sacrifice for us –

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:8-10 NKJ)

Two Great Truths

1. Christ was slain "You were slain" - :9 He had the pain!
2. "Have redeemed us to God ..." -:9-10 - we have the gain!

A. Because of this He is He is worthy of our all –

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 NKJ)

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NKJ)

B. If we give Him less than all (whole-hearted love) we are not worthy of Him –

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."³⁸ "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. (Matthew 10:37-38 NKJ)

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;³ "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.⁴ "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. (Revelation 2:2-4 NKJ)

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. (Revelation 3:15-16 NKJ)

III. He is worthy, as the Lamb, in an exceedingly glorious way –

1. *This is a glory appreciated in Heaven –*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. (Revelation 5:11-14 NKJ)

A. *The Greek word for worthy means – weighty*

14 ἄξιος axios {ax'-ee-os} **Meaning:** 1) weighing, having weight, having the weight of another thing of like value, worth as much 2) befitting, congruous, corresponding to a thing 3) of one who has merited anything worthy ...

Though a great crowd is mentioned - :11 This is obviously a higher kind of glory (or worthiness) than what might be achieved by a home run to win the world series!

2. *People often miss Christ's worthiness as the Lamb slain –*

A. *They sing "hosannas" when He comes as King –*

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey." (Matthew 21:5 NKJ)

And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:8-9 NKJ)

B. *Yet, they do not recognize His worthiness, His glory as a self-sacrificing, slain Lamb King –*

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." (John 19:5-6 NKJ)

IV. *The deeper our perception and appreciation of Christ's glory as the Lamb slain, the more willing we (as His sheep) will be to suffer and sacrifice for His glory –*

1. *Scripture calls us to such –*

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11 NKJ)

2. *This likeness to the slain Lamb is an excellent life –*

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11 NKJ)

3. *This is likeness to the Lamb is even beyond the praise of Heaven's creatures –*

... And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:6-8 NKJ)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,⁹ receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of *your* souls. (1 Peter 1:6-9 NKJ)