

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
September 29, 2024

*"Exalt the LORD our God and worship at His holy hill,  
for holy is the LORD our God." – Psalm 99:9*



[trinityreformedct.org](http://trinityreformedct.org)

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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – Isaiah 6:1-7

*Leader: In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,  
lofty and exalted,*

**People: With the train of His robe filling the temple.**

*Leader: Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face,  
and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.*

**People: And one called out to another and said,**

*Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,*

**People: The whole earth is full of His glory.**

*Leader: And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out,*

**People: While the temple was filling with smoke.**

*Leader: Then I said, Woe is me, for I am ruined!*

**People: Because I am a man of unclean lips,**

*Leader: And I live among a people of unclean lips;*

**People: For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**

*Leader: Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand,*

**People: Which he had taken from the altar with tongs.**

*Leader: He touched my mouth with it and said, Behold, this has touched your lips;*

**People: And your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

**Gospel Absolution Text** – 1Thessalonians 5:23-24

**\*Hymn #100** (red hymnal) – “Holy, Holy, Holy”

**Scripture Reading** – Ezekiel 10:1-22

**Ancient Creedal Reading** – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

## Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]  
[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

**\*Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sung Psalm #29A** (see insert below) – “You Sons of the Gods”

**Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer** (sins)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Reformation Creedal Reading** – Heidelberg Catechism (1563 AD), #94

**Leader:** *What does God enjoin in the first commandment* Ex 20:3  
*(which is “You shall have no other gods before Me.”)?*

**People:** **That I, as sincerely as I desire the salvation  
of my own soul,**

**Leader:** *Avoid and flee from all idolatry,* 1John 5:21; 1Cor 6:9-10; 10:7,14

**People:** **Sorcery, soothsaying, superstition,** Lev 19:31; Deut 18:9-12

**Leader:** *Invocation of saints, or any other creatures;* Matt 4:10; Rev 19:10; 22:8-9

**People:** **And learn rightly to know the only true God;** John 17:3

**Leader:** *Trust in Him alone, with humility* Jer 17:5,7; 1Pet. 5:5-6

**People:** **And patience submit to Him;** Heb 10:36; Col 1:11; Rom 5:3-4;  
1Cor 10:10; Phil 2:14

**Leader:** *Expect all good things from Him only;* Ps 104:27-30; Is 45:7; James 1:17

**People:** **Love, fear, and glorify Him with  
my whole heart;** Deut 6:5; Matt 22:37; Deut 6:2; Ps 111:10  
Prov 1:7; 9:10; Matt 10:28; 4:10; Deut 10:20-21

**Leader:** *So that I renounce and forsake all creatures,  
rather than commit even the least thing* Matt 5:29-30; 10:37;

**People:** **Contrary to His will.** Acts 5:29

**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**\*Sermon Text** – Revelation 4:6b-9

**\*Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Sermon** – “*Angelic Worship*”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

**\*Hymn #218** (red hymnal) – “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**\*Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

## Upcoming Special Events

- On Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at noon, there will be an **outdoor pot luck** at Pastor Doug's House. (54 Horseshoe Cir. Barkhamsted, CT 06063). Please bring a lawn chair and a dish if you can. There will be fall games, apple bobbing, etc. Rain Date: October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The New England Reformed Fellowship's **Bolton Conference** will be held on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA 01588. [newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2024-conference](http://newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2024-conference)
- The **Annual Meeting** will be held after church on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Save the date! The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Calvinist **Christmas Party** will be at the Grange on Friday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	<b>Sunday School</b> Children's curriculum: KVB Publications Women's Study: Study on cults Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	<b>Worship</b> (Lord's Supper on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month) <b>Coffee Hour Fellowship</b>
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	<b>Tuesday Classics Study</b> at Pastor Doug's house Overview of Medieval Theology & reading some Aquinas
Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	<b>Wednesday Bible Study</b> at Pastor Doug's house Origins of the Bible & a Study of 2Peter & Jude
Friday	6:30 - ??? PM	<b>Young Adult Discussion Group</b> at Pastor Doug's house (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays)
Saturday	morning	<b>Prayer Group</b> at the Gabelmann's (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

<i>TRC's Webpage:</i>	TrinityReformedCT.org
<i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i>	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
<i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i>	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
<i>Pastor Doug's</i>	youtube.com/simplyreformed
<i>Youtube Channels:</i>	youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

## INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests you would like for, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: [trcnwprayer@gmail.com](mailto:trcnwprayer@gmail.com). (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

## LEADERSHIP

<i>Elders:</i>	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
<i>Deacons:</i>	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
<i>Sunday School:</i>	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	<i>Music Coordinator:</i>	Cindy Rines
<i>Clerk:</i>	Sheryl Gabelmann	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Cindy Rines

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## Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

*Worship Starts At:* 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

*Sunday Worship At:* Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

*Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

*Webpage:* [trinityreformedct.org](http://trinityreformedct.org) – *Email:* [trinityreformedct@gmail.com](mailto:trinityreformedct@gmail.com)

# Sermon Notes

Revelation 4:6-11

“Angelic Worship”

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

September 29, 2024

## Introduction

- 1) *Question*: What is the most important action you will do with your life here on earth?
- 2) Revelation is a good book to answer this question.
- 3) Pastor Doug believes<sup>1</sup> the main theme of Revelation is the call to the church to remain faithful even during times of great persecution.<sup>2</sup> Rev 1:3,6
- 4) To encourage the church, the Apostle John receives a series of revelations<sup>3</sup> from the view of God enthroned in heaven and the unveiling of all history from Christ’s First Advent (i.e. Jesus incarnation) to His Second Advent (i.e. glorious return) at the end of the age.
- 5) This godly/heavenly perspective is encouraging because:
  - a) The saints will go to heaven, even if martyred.
  - b) We know that the Lord Jesus has, is and will, win(ning).
  - c) Finally, when we see everything from God’s perspective (only possible through the special revelation given to John) we are allowed to see the big picture.
    - i) Turning us away from the limited, myopic, and worldly view.
    - ii) To a heavenly one, which gives great encouragement and understanding.
- 6) Besides seeing God enthroned, John sees certain heavenly creatures near the throne.
  - a) Revelation 4:6b – “*In the center and around the throne, four living creatures*”
  - b) The “four living creatures” are angels and there is, and has always been, a lot of confusion about angels.

## About Angels

- 1) 95% of what the world (especially Hallmark) teaches about angels is wrong.
- 2) Angels are, technically, extraterrestrial spiritual beings.
  - a) They are not humans “earning” their wings in heaven or from UFOs.
  - b) They are immortal, created, finite, intelligent, Dan 7:10; Matt 26:53;  
spiritual beings, not tainted by sin & possessing Luke 2:13; 9:26; 20:36;  
superhuman abilities and powers. Heb 1:14; 12:22, 23; 1Pet 1:12
  - c) Though they can appear in human form. Gen 18:2; 19:1,10; Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10

<sup>1</sup> Pastor Doug takes an “**Idealist Amillennialist**” approach to Revelation, seeing the book is mostly about the current church age. His favorite commentary on Revelation is: More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation by William Hendriksen (Baker, 1940). For a good overview of the major interpretative schools see: Revelation Four Views: A Parallel Commentary edited by Steve Gregg (Thomas Nelson, 1997)

<sup>2</sup> Rev 1:9; 2:2-3,7,10-11,13,17,19,26; 3:5,10,12,21; 9:20; 13:10,15; 14:12-13; 16:11; 17:14; 20:4,12-13; 21:7; 22:6.

<sup>3</sup> Below is how Hendriksen divides the various visions in Revelation:

	<u>Vision 1</u>	<u>Vision 2</u>	<u>Vision 3</u>	<u>Vision 4</u>	<u>Vision 5</u>	<u>Vision 6</u>	<u>Vision 7</u>
<i>Present Church Age:</i>	1:1-3:22	4:1-6:11	8:1-12	12:1-13:18	15:1-16:12	17:1-18:24	20:1-6
<i>Tribulation - End of this Age:</i>	---	6:12-7:8	8:13-11:14	14:1-13	16:12-16	---	---
<i>Perfect Final Age to Come:</i>	---	7:9-17	11:15-19	14:14-20	16:17-21	19:1-21	20:7-22:21

- 3) The word for “angel,” in both Greek & Hebrew, simply means “messenger” (or “ambassador”, or “representative”) and can apply to normal human messengers or heavenly angels. Job 1:14; 1Sam 11:3; Is 42:19; Hag 1:13; Mal 2:7; Luke 7:24; 9:52; Rev 1:20
- 4) Angels have the following major functions:
- a) To worship God in heaven. Ps 148:2; Matt 10:32; Luke 12:8; Rev 3:5; 4:6-8; 5:11-14
  - b) Agents of God’s providence. Ex 12:23; 2Sam 24:16; 1Chr 21:16; 2Kgs 19:35; Ps 103:20; 104:4; Acts 12:23; 1Cor 10:10; Heb 11:28
  - c) And they help to carry out God’s plan of redemption.<sup>4</sup> Gen 48:16
- 5) Only God is to be worshiped, not angels! Ex 20:3; Jer 25:6; 35:15; Col 2:18; Rev 4:6-8; 5:11-14; 19:10; 22:8-9
- 6) Speculations about the differences between Men & Angels:
- a) In one sense, angels are superior to men, in power, intellect, immortality, etc.
  - b) In another sense, man is superior to angels because we are made in the image of God & can be redeemed by the fact God became an incarnate human (i.e. Jesus). Gen 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1Cor 11:7; Eph 4:24; James 3:9
- 7) There appears to be different ranks of angels (List below in order of importance.) Zech 1:9, 11; Dan 10:13; 12:1; 1Thes 4:16; Jude 1:9; Eph 1:21; Col 1:16
- a) The **Cherubim / Seraphim** (more about them below).
  - b) **Archangels** – Two of which are named in the Bible: 1Thes 4:16; Jude 9
    - i) Gabriel, probably the same as the “angel of the Lord.” Dan 8:16; 9:21; Zech 1:12; 3:1; 12:8; Luke 1:11-38; Acts 8:26,29
    - ii) Michael, the “guardian” angel of Israel. Dan 10:13,21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev 12:7
  - c) **Angels.** Rev 4:11

### **Revelation 4:6-8 – About the Cherubim / Seraphim**

- 1) The highest rank of angel seems to be the cherubim.
- a) They are not cute little pudgy babies with wings.
  - b) The word “cherubim” might be connected to the Assyrian word for “great, mighty.”
- 2) When mere “common” angels appear what do they frequently state?
- a) “Do not be afraid!” Judges 13:20; Ezek 1:28; Matt 1:20; 28:5; Luke 1:13,30; 2:10
  - b) Meaning angels are terrifying to fallen, sinful man.
  - c) How much more so the cherubim.
- 3) The cherubim are terrifying primordial monstrous creatures. Is 6:1-7; Ezek 1:4-14; 10:1-22; Rev 4:6-8
- a) In Revelation 4 they are described as:
    - i) They have “*six wings*” and are “*full of eyes in front and behind*” and “*around and within*”. Rev 4:8; Rev 4:6,8
    - ii) The creatures are like: Lion, Calf, Man and a Flying Eagle. Rev 4:7

<sup>4</sup> Angels’ labors include: Minister on earth. (Gen 18; 19; 24:7,40; 28:12; 32:1; 23:20; 32:34; Ex 23:20; 32:34). Rebuke idolatry. (Judg 2:1-4). Call leaders for God’s people. (Judg 6:11,12; 13:3; 1Kgs 19:5; 2Kgs 6:17; Zech 1-6; Dan 4:13,23; 10:10,13,20,21). Proclaim Christ’s birth, resurrection & ascension. (Matt 1:20; Luke 1:26-38). Ministered to Christ. (Matt 4:11; 28:2-8; Luke 22:43; John 20:12,13; Acts 1:10,11). Ministers to the people of God. (Ps 34:7; 91:11; Heb 1:14; Matt 18:10; Acts 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7; 27:23). Rejoice over a penitent sinner. (Luke 15:10). Bear the souls of the redeemed to paradise. (Luke 16:22). Agents of judgment at the end times. (Matt 13:39,41,49; 16:27; 24:31)

- b) They are described in Isaiah & Ezekiel, in similar ways, though slightly different, as if primordial spiritual creatures are not confined to a single form before mortal eyes.
- 4) In Isaiah, they are called the “seraphim.” Is 6:2-6
- a) They seem to be the same creatures as the cherubim. Rev 4:8
- b) “Seraphim” in the OT also refers to:
- i) Fiery serpents that God sends as judgment against Israel, though mercy is also granted because Moses is ordered to put a bronze “seraphim” on a poll and all those who look on it would be protected. Num 21:6-9  
Deut 8:15
- ii) Seraphim are also called “flying serpents” in Isaiah 14:29; 30:6.
- 5) Both cherubim and seraphim are called “four living beings” or “four living creatures” in the Bible Ezek 1:5; Rev 4:6,8; 5:6,8,14;  
Rev 6:1,6; 7:11; 14:3; 15:7; 19:4
- a) The Hebrew word for “being” is the same for “wild beast.”
- b) In Greek the word used for “creatures” also means “beast.”
- 6) Remember, words usually have different meanings, and their meaning is determined by the context of the sentence, and paragraph, they are in.
- a) A common rookie pastor mistake is to assume any meaning of a word listed in a dictionary can be interchanged into a sentence it is used in.
- b) For example: The word “bad” in the sentence “Michael Jackson’s music is bad” is defined by the context of the paragraph surrounding it. (Does “bad” mean “enjoyable to listen to”, “lacking technical music skill” or “immoral”?)
- c) Thus saying, the highest rank of angels are really snakes or just wild beasts, would be against the basic rules of grammar. (The technical term for this is “semantic domain”.)
- d) Though the words used for cherubim, and seraphim, are obscured, they imply terrifying monstrous creatures, not cute chubby babes.
- 7) Satan appears to have been a cherub. Ezek 28:14,16
- 8) The cherubim, with a flaming sword, guard the way back to the tree of life in Eden. Gen 3:24
- 9) God answers David’s prayer like riding on a Cherubim. 2Sam 22:11; Ps 18:10
- 10) Images of the cherubim are used to decorate many parts of the OT Temple. 1Kgs 6:23-29; 2Chr 3:7,10-14;  
Ezek 41:18-20,25
- a) Including the curtains (Ex 26:1; 36:8), the doors (1Kgs 6:32,35), stands (1Kgs 7:29,36) and the veil & screen (Ex 26:31; 36:35).
- b) Especially the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant, showing God is enthroned above the Cherubim. Ex 25:18-22; 37:7-9; Num 7:89;  
1Sam 4:4; 2Sam 6:2; 1Kgs 8:6-7;  
1Chr 13:6; 28:18; 2Chr 5:7-8

## **Revelation 4:8-11 – Worship**

- 1) What do these greatest, in sense of power – not in the sense of being in the image of God, created beings do?
- a) The cherubim worship God.
- b) “Rev 4:8 – *“and day and night they do not cease to say, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God’”*
- c) They have been worshiping God since the beginning of creation and will do so forever.

d) Because the Cherubim are literally before God's throne in heaven, as we read in today's text.

2Kgs 19:15; Ps 80:1; 99:1; Is (6:2-7);  
Is 37:16; Ezek 9:2; 10:1-22; 11:22

2) This answers the question I first asked: What is the most important thing you will do with your life here on earth? It is to worship God!

3) Notice what happens when the cherubim "give glory and honor and thanks" to God enthroned in heaven. Rev 4:9

a) The 24 elders, who represent all the saints, "*fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.'*" - Rev 4:10b-11

b) So, we like the angels, even the greatest of angels, will worship God forever.

c) The greatest thing we do on this earth is to worship God.

d) Because we will worship God forever in the eternity of heaven.

4) Problems?

a) The idea we will worship forever is a very hard concept for us moderns to grasp, especially Americans.

b) An everlasting Sunday morning church service / sermon does not sound like eternal bliss.

i) At best maybe purgatory. (Which doesn't exist.)

ii) Or worst the other place. (Which does exist.)

c) Listening to sermons are very much a part of worship during this fallen age.

i) In fact, along with the sacraments, preaching is the most important part of the Lord's Day worship, because it is the normal means by which God speaks to us in the here and now as we await Christ's return. Jer 3:15; Mark 16:15-16; 1Cor 1:21-23; Acts 6:3; Rom 10:13-17; Eph 4:11-16; 1Tim 4:13; 2Tim 3:16-4:5

ii) However, there will be no sermons in heaven.

iii) There will be no Bibles in heaven.

iv) Why would we need them when we are before God directly?

d) Thus, we need to define "worship."

5) Both OT Hebrew, and NT Greek, have several words for "worship."

a) They focus around an inferior giving service, ministering to, a superior.

b) Especially, to prostrate oneself before a superior.

i) To give obeisance.

ii) Think of a samurai movie of the peasants bowing before their lord.

iii) Word for "worship" in Revelation 4:10 means "to prostrate oneself and give reverence."

c) The image of heaven:

i) As the cherubim give all praise, glory and honor to God . . .

ii) The saints (us redeemed humans) "*fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship (proskyneō - to prostrate oneself before) Him who lives forever and ever*". - Revelation 4:10

6) Even more problems now?

- a) The idea of having to prostrate ourselves is greatly offensive to moderns, especially Americans.
  - i) Think of how the USA refuses to bow the flag before foreign leaders in the opening ceremonies of the Olympics.
  - ii) Also, we like to think we do not bow before anyone or thing.
- b) Maybe not a physical literal bow, however, everyone does this in their hearts. (i.e. with the inner being.)
  - i) To quote the Lord Jesus, "*for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" – Matthew 6:21
  - ii) What you desire, adore, set aside as special, are dedicate to, consecrate, put above all else (i.e. make as holy) is what you worship.

7) What do you treasure above all else?

- a) Power, money, prestige, position, glory, fame, success?
  - i) You all know to say "no" to those. Matt 6:19-20
  - ii) Even if it might be true, because those things are very tempting.
  - iii) Remember the Parable of the Sower. Matt 13:ff
- b) To say "nothing" or "nobody" because you think you are an "autonomous self-made man doing my own thing, going my own way" proves the point.
  - i) Do you not desire / adore /set aside as special / dedicate yourself / consecrate your personal freedom? Your individualism?
  - ii) Paul writes of such people: "*Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man*" – Rom 1:22-23a
- c) How about friends, family, health, or even doing good to others?
  - i) But those are good things?!
  - ii) True, just like being successful and having money, power and/or freedom in this life, is not a sin. (Think of Abraham, Job or Joseph of Arimathea.) Gen 13:2;  
Job 42:10f;  
Matt 27:57
- d) However, if there is any created thing you treasure more than the worship of God, you have an idol, a snare in your life, and that brings death.
  - i) And as Calvin pointed out: "*The human heart is a perpetual idol factory.*"
  - ii) Here is test: Would you be willing to give that thing up to have Christ? Luke 18:23ff
  - iii) To take the most important thing, the thing that defines you, like a crown for a king, and cast it before Christ as an act of worship / obeisance?
  - iv) Like the saints do in heaven in Revelation 4:10?
- e) Remember what the Bible teaches:
  - i) If you give all your possessions to feed the poor, and if you surrender your body to be burned, but do not have that supreme love for God as seen in worship, it profits you nothing. – To paraphrase 1Corinthians 13:3
  - ii) Luke 14:26 – "*If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*"



- 8) To understand this, know that: *“We become like what we worship.”*<sup>5</sup>
- a) And if it is not God, then it is an idol.
  - b) And idols, even good things in this world, will always fail because they are temporary created things unworthy of worship.
    - i) If worshiped, they will turn one away from God, and to bitterness, darkness & death.
    - ii) Only the Creator is to be worshiped.
    - iii) Why? As we read in Revelation 4:11 – *“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”*
  - c) To go back to the full quote: *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* – Matthew 6:19-21
- 9) Is not the greatest commandment to love God? Matt 22:36-38
- a) Is not the first four of the Ten Commandments about the worship of God? Ex 20:1ff
  - b) The more you train yourself to worship God in this life the more you can appreciate and correctly love the good things of this world in a balanced way.
- 10) You might say: “I do love God, and I am in church today. However, I can’t say I truly love the Triune God with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind.” Matt 22:37
- a) Assuming you are not saying this as an excuse for sin, which would be very bad.
  - b) But as a simple statement of repentance and fact, then praise God!  
The Holy Spirit is with you! John 16:8
  - c) Thus continue to turn away from yourself, sin, and this world,  
and turn to Christ and His Gospel. Matt 11:28-30  
Eph 2:1-10
  - i) Did not Christ perfectly give obeisance to the Father? Matt 26:39; Phil 2:5-8
  - ii) Has not His righteousness been perfectly credited to you by faith alone? Eph 2:8-9
  - d) So, let us remain faithful and grow in faith, which will give us hope and create in us love.
  - e) Because in this life, we imperfectly worship, though covered by the perfect blood of Christ, He who alone is the source of all that which is good.
  - f) Knowing we are destined to the perfect worship of Him, who is enthroned above the greatest of angels.

<sup>5</sup> For a good book on this subject: *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry* by G.K. Beale (IVP Academic, 2008).