

In Christian Worship, God is the One who Serves

Vacation is work; for me it is. Not only because of all the arrangements I have to make in preparation for my absence, and the backlog following, but also because vacation itself usually involves a lot of activity. Usually, it feels as if I need some rest to recover from my vacations, even though vacation itself is supposed to be a time of rest. Oddly enough, though, getting back into the swing of things is how I recover. When I think about it, it seems somewhat confusing; but, as I live it rather than think about it, that is how it works.

There is much confusion, also, about the "rest", or "Sabbath", God commands that Christians take, or make, however one sees it; and exactly that is the confusion: Is worship work or is it "rest"? How one thinks about this will, of course, depend on how one thinks about God and the faith.

"The Son of Man came not to serve," our Lord Jesus says, and the Christian faith, "but rather to serve and give His life as a ransom for many." The Christian faith is centred on what He has done, the Son of God, who had Himself made to be the Son of Man, and suffer to save sinners, and what He does. And therefore, so is also Christian worship. Compared to what He has done, no good we could ever do would even be worth considering. And Christian worship is not Christians serving Him as much as it is Him serving His Christians. As the Son of Man one came, He now comes, not to be served, as much, but rather to serve, and give to His Christians the eternal life He has won for us by giving His life as a ransom.

True worship of Him is to honour and acknowledge Him as Saviour, to surrender to His love and receive the salvation He was won for us, and wills to give to us.

And in Christian worship He does give His salvation to His Christians; for Christian worship is His Word of His love and what His love has done for us. With His Word of the price He has paid to make us His own, He claims us as His own. And He makes us to be His own, as He makes us to believe His promise of full forgiveness of all sin, and eternal life with Him. And with His promise, all that He promises is given to those who hear it and take it to heart.

Christian worship in its essence is not something we do for God, but rather what He does for us, and commands us to receive from Him. His command to worship calls us to rest from our own works and have His Word of salvation work salvation in us.