

# Transformers Transformed by Music

Thursday, 02 Dec 2004

Worship

—Opening Scripture— The Familiar Christmas Story—Matthew 2:1-11  
How did the wise men worship Jesus?

—Discussion on Worship:

- What is worship? What is the purpose of worship?
- Read John 4:21-24. What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?
- How do we worship? Is there a difference between worship and praise?
- Is there a wrong way to worship?
- Read Isaiah 29:13. What kind of worship does God desire, according to this verse?
- Read Psalm 150. What are the where, why, how, and who of worship, according to this verse?
- Read 1 Chronicles 6:31-32. The verse said they “ministered with music”. How can one minister with music?
- Read 2 Chronicles 5:11-14. Is there any specific part of this example that you like? Is this example of worship similar to or different from the way we worship in modern days?
- How do we decide where to draw the line on what kind of music can be used in worship services on Sunday mornings? For example, can we use Audio Adrenaline songs in church services? Why or why not?

—Song — “The Houseplant Song” by Audio Adrenaline

Once I read a book  
And this is what it said  
If your music has a beat  
Then you're gonna wind up dead  
It doesn't really matter if it's Christian or not  
If it's syncopated rhythm then your soul is gonna rot  
And this book was called "Ha! You're Gonna Burn"  
And in the second chapter I went on to learn

CHORUS:

Take two houseplants  
And put them to the test  
Set them both in front of speakers  
And let the music do the rest  
The first one you play Mozart  
Or something lovely like that  
The second one you play that Petra Or that MegaDeth.  
Doesn't really matter what kind of rock it is.

So I took my two houseplants  
And I put them to the test  
Set them both in front of speakers  
To let the music do the rest  
I powered up my Pioneers  
To let the music roar  
But twenty minutes later  
Someone's knocking at my door  
I opened up my door  
And there my neighbor stood  
He said, "Man I'd like to get some sleep  
If you think I could"  
I said, "Man, can't you see here  
I've got this moral dilemma that I got to get clear."  
He said, " What kind of moral dilemma  
Could you have at this time of night

That could make me so angry  
That I just want to fight!?"  
So I pointed to the page in that open book  
That had a picture of a potted plant  
And I said, "Go have a look."  
And he read

CHORUS

First of all he said,  
"That's Wagner that you're playing  
I've never heard of Petra  
And isn't MegaDeth all dead."  
And secondly, emphatically, He asked me,  
"What's the sense of hanging out with houseplants when, hey,  
I live right across the fence."  
And I thought to myself  
You know, that's a good point  
So I took my two houseplants, and  
I put them both back outside  
And me and my neighbor  
Well, we went out for a drive  
We talked about all the things  
That really matter most  
Like life and love and happiness  
And then the Holy Ghost  
And now my two houseplants  
They sit out in the sun  
As for me and my neighbor  
Well our friendship has become  
A meaningful relationship  
That's headed straight to heaven  
But as for now  
We like to sit around and listen to Audio Adrenaline  
Cranked to eleven!

What do you think about the song?

In what ways do people get too caught up in trivial things related to Christianity and completely miss the bigger picture?

—Summary

Worship is an expression of the heart, involving the mind and the body. In other words, there are three kinds of worship:

1. worship that involves speaking, and
2. worship that involves listening, and
3. worship that involves doing.

Worship is a lifestyle. Like prayer, it can and should take place 24 x 7.

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--  
this is your spiritual act of worship.  
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--  
his good, pleasing and perfect will.  
Romans 12:1-2**

—**Question to ponder:** What do you worship in your life?

—**Quote to think about:**

Why did men worship in churches, locking themselves away in the dark,  
when the world lay beyond its doors in all its real glory? —Charles de Lint

—**Song to mediate on**—”Romans 12:1” by Todd Agnew

Brothers and sisters, I beg you  
In light of all He's done for us  
To offer yourselves in worship to our God  
Brothers and sisters, I ask you  
Present yourselves a living sacrifice  
Holy and acceptable to our God

Jesus, we come to worship You  
Jesus, we come to lift You high  
Jesus, we come to honor You with our lives

Father, we come to You humbly  
Recognizing Your infinite glory  
Jesus, we're so grateful for Your sacrifice  
Spirit, we ask You to fill us  
To come in and change us and move us  
To carry our mortal worship to the divine