



Dear Friends,

Kathryn and I only moved into the Eastern Suburbs a couple of years ago. It was a part of Sydney I barely knew before living here. We would make the odd foray into the area - a trip to the SCG or footy stadium to attend a sporting event; the occasional hospital visit to see a sick friend or relative; seeing a band play at the Hordern Pavilion; going to a work Christmas party at Randwick Racecourse back in the day.

We love living in Randwick. One of the things I enjoy is that we are located between magnificent parklands and the seaside. We are surrounded by natural beauty.

Most days, I go to Centennial Park for a walk and pray. I usually go early in the morning. Early enough to see the sun rise against a horizon with its silhouette of city buildings. The soft light emitted by the rising sun at dawn is a joy to behold.

But there is more to see. I enjoy the canopy of trees above my head as I take the walking track around the park. I feel a sense of serenity as I pass the pond in the park's middle.

This morning, while praying, I was meditating on God's intrinsic worth. God is worthy of our worship simply for who he is. Of course, my heart overflows with adoration and appreciation to God for all he is for me and has done for me in Jesus Christ. He chose me before the creation of the world. He sent Jesus to die to take the punishment that I deserve for my sin so that I can have fellowship with him. He has poured out his Spirit on me so that God is always with me and enables me to live for him. He has placed me in his church and surrounded me with Christian sisters and brothers. Hallelujah!

But this morning, I also wanted to pause to think on God's being. That God is God, and that him simply being God makes him worthy of my praise.

My mind then goes to the natural beauty around me. The morning sun. The pastel-coloured skies. The trees encircling me. The tranquil waters of the pond. Just by existing, they evoke a sense of awe and delight in me. Their beauty, splendour and majesty arrest my attention. I am moved to thank God. To praise him for his creative genius and amazing work.

My instinctive reaction to the created beauty surrounding me spoke to me of what it means to worship God simply for who he is as Father, Son and Spirit. Just by existing, God is worthy of my praise and adoration. God is possessed of an intrinsic perfection, majesty and beauty that demands our attention and evokes awe and adulation. Like watching a magnificent sunset or sailing on Sydney's Harbour or walking in the Blue Mountains.

In the Book of Revelation, the apostle John is given a glimpse into the heavenly court where God is seated on the throne. The scene is one of worship. The worshippers consist of all kinds of living creatures including humans. They sing a total of three songs. Interestingly, the first song they sing praises God simply for who he is:

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." (Rev.4:8)

The phrase, "who was, and is, and is to come" was first mentioned in Ch.1. Its roots lie in the revelation of God's name to Moses in Exodus 3:14 as, "I AM WHO I AM."

When we worship God simply for who he is, as the One worthy of our praise for his intrinsic perfection, beauty and majesty, we will appreciate who he is for us as our creator, provider and redeemer. So, I encourage you over the next week to spend time praising God simply for who he is, as the holy One who inhabits eternity, and of himself, is wisdom, power, goodness and love.

God Bless,
Mark Adams