

Worship

- I. What is the meaning of the word “worship”?
 - A. The Hebrew word for worship is “Shahah”, meaning “to bow down, prostrate”.
 - B. The Greek word is “proskuneo” - to prostrate oneself in homage, to do reverence to, to adore; it literally is derived from a word meaning to kiss like a dog licking his master’s hand
 - C. These words suggest reverence, honor, glorify, praise and submission, to serve
 - D. Worship involves offering something up to God
 - E. The Bible is filled with examples of worship.
 1. Worship was an essential part of all three dispensations (Patriarchal, Mosaic, Christian)
 2. Just as God has dealt with people differently over the course of time so have methods of acceptable worship changed depending on the dispensation and people involved. For examples:
 - a. During the Patriarchal Age, animal sacrifices were offered to God (Gen 4:3-4; 22:5-7)
 - b. Under the Mosaic Age, animal sacrifices (Ex 29:10-30) and incense (Ex 30:1-8) were a part of worship; there were priests (Lev 1:5) and many offerings (Lev 3:1; 5:15; 6:25) and feasts (Lev 23)
 - c. In the Christian Age, there is no need for animal sacrifices since Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice once for all (Heb 10:10-14)
 - F. We can worship individually (Heb 11:21; Rom 12:1-2) or collectively as the assembly of the Church (I Cor 11:17-22, 33)
- II. Who is worthy of worship? Whom are we to worship? God!
 - A. Under the Law of Moses, Jews were commanded to worship only Jehovah God (Ex 20:1-6); Jesus confirmed this when Satan tempted Him (Matt 4:10)
 - B. Jesus, while on this earth, accepted worship from men (Matt 14:32-33; John 9:35-39) confirming His deity (Phil 2:5-7)
 - C. Worship is for deity; no one else is worthy.
 1. We are not to worship other gods (Acts 14:11-15; Ex 34:14; Ex 20:3)
 2. We are not to worship idols (Ex 20:4-5; Jer 2:26-28; Isa 44:9-19)
 3. We are not to worship Satan (Matt 4:8-10)
 4. We are not to worship angels (Rev 22:8-9)
 5. We are not to worship men (Acts 10:25-26)
 - a. Here, the Apostle Peter himself refused worship or special honor from men
 - b. In Matt 23:8-12, Jesus taught that no man was even to wear a religious title
 6. We are not to worship and serve mammon (riches) - Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13
- III. What is the purpose of worship?
 - A. To praise God and give thanks to His name, Heb 13:15

1. We acknowledge God as God, the Creator (Ps 95:1-7; Ps 148)
 2. We remember all that he has done for us (Luke 22:19; I Cor 11:23-29)
 - B. David's Psalm of Thanksgiving (I Chron 16:8-36) captures the essence of worship:
 1. Give Thanks, call upon His name, make known His deeds (vs 8),
 2. Sing praises to Him, speak of all His wonders (vs 9),
 3. Glory in His name (vs 10),
 4. Seek the Lord and His strength (vs 11),
 5. Remember His wonderful deeds (vs 12)
 6. Ascribe glory, bring offerings, and worship the Lord in Holy array (vs 28-29)
 - C. Note God has no needs; he exists and functions independently from us with or without our worship (Acts 17:24-25)
 - D. The focus of worship is on God not man
 1. Worship is not for our entertainment - amusement - personal satisfaction
 2. It is about what God wants to receive - NOT what we want to offer
- IV. What are the essential elements of Christian worship? (John 4:23-24)
- A. We must worship God in Spirit
 1. God is spirit so worship must be a spiritual offering (John 4:24; Phil 3:3)
 2. We must not worship Him for outward show, display or to be seen by others (Matt 6:1-8, 16-18)
 3. We must have the right heart and motive
 - a. God looks at what's in our heart not at outward appearance (Matt 23:25-28; I Sam 16:7)
 - b. The Pharisees were condemned because they worshipped with their lips but their heart was far from God (Matt 15:8)
 - B. We must worship Him in Truth
 1. We must worship according to His will - as He requests - in truth (Ps 145:17-18)
 2. What is truth? God's word is truth (John 17:17; 8:31-32)
 3. We are to walk in truth (II John vs 1-6)
 4. We must worship according to His word.
 5. Worship not directed by the Word of God is not offered in faith - so is sinful
 - a. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom 10:17; Heb 11:4 Abel)
 - b. Whatever is not from faith is sin (Rom 14:23; Cain in I John 3:11-12)
 - C. Obeying God's commands is better than making unauthorized sacrificial offerings (I Sam 15:19-23; Prov 16:25; Isa 55:8-9)
 - D. Our very life is to be given to God as a holy sacrifice (Rom 12:1-2)
- V. Not all worship is acceptable to God; We must abide by His will worshiping in truth.
- A. We cannot worship by ritual - meaningless repetition (Matt 6:7)
 - B. We cannot worship God in ways that He has not authorized (Lev 10:1-2)
 1. We must worship Him as He has requested.
 2. When we make changes to God's instructions, we dishonor Him (Lev 10:3)

- C. We cannot worship God while teaching false doctrine - traditions of men (Matt 15:8-9)
 - D. We cannot worship God while living in sin (Isa 59:1-2)
 - E. We cannot worship God while in conflict with our brethren (Matt 5:23-24)
 - F. We cannot worship God for the wrong reasons (Matt 6:1, 5, 16-17; I Cor 11:28-29)
 - G. Sincerity is not enough (Rom 10:1-3) - zeal must be accompanied with knowledge, righteousness
- VI. Do Christians keep the Sabbath day? No
- A. Keeping the Sabbath day holy was a commandment under the Mosaic Law (Ex 20:8-11)
 - 1. This command was given to Jews only under the Law of Moses (Deut 5:1-3, 15)
 - 2. The law was given to Moses at Mt. Sinai (Neh 9:13-14); it was not in force from the beginning.
 - B. The Old Covenant (i.e., Mosaic Law, "Ten Commandments") was to be done away (Jer 31:31-33; Heb 7:11-12, 8:7-13; 10:1-10; Col 2:13-17)
 - C. Christians are not under The Law of Moses
 - 1. The Law was fulfilled in Jesus (Matt 5:17-18)
 - 2. The Law served a temporary purpose until Jesus came (Gal 3:17-29)
- VII. Christians worship in an assembly on the first day of the week, not day seven (Acts 20:7; I Cor 16:1-2)
- A. John called this the Lord's Day (Rev 1:10)
 - B. What made the first day of the week different? the resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:1-8; Matt 28:1-7; John 20:19)
- VIII. What activities are observed in New Testament worship Assembly?
- A. Prayer (Acts 2:42; 20:36; I Tim 2:8)
 - B. Teaching (Acts 20:7) and preaching the Word of God (Col 1:24-27)
 - C. Giving (2 Cor 8:1-5; I Cor 16:1-2)
 - D. The Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor 11:18-34)
 - E. Singing (Col 3:16; Eph 5:19)
- IX. Another aspect of acceptable worship is Proper Conduct (I Cor 14:40)
- A. All things are to be done properly - according to God's will (I Tim 2:8-9; 3:15)
 - B. There is to be order (structure) - not confusion
- X. In its very essence, Christian Worship involves offering something to God and doing so in Spirit and in Truth.
- A. What do we have to offer to Almighty God that He does not already own/possess?
 - B. It is our heart: our love, our devotion - our choice by free will to follow Him

Robert S. Chambers: 4/12/18

1. God has granted us free will and does not interfere with our ability to choose
2. As a result, God does not already possess our heart
3. God asks us to give it to Him (Ps 51:17)