

Understanding True Worship

Oologah Summer Series

(Jn 4:24)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. What a wonderful day to worship God.
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church"
 - a. Last week we looked at "Love" the building block.
 - b. This week we are going to look at "Worship."
 - i. We will be getting into the different aspects of worship through the next few weeks.
3. It's important for us to understand what the Bible means when "worship" is used.
 - a. We discussed this in Bible class so I won't go into it too much but to get give an overview of the definition of worship.
4. Worship Defined.
 - a. "proskuneo (προσκυνέω, 4352), "to make obeisance, do reverence to" (from pros, "towards," and kuneo, "to kiss"), is the most frequent word rendered "to worship." It is used of an act of homage or reverence" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (686). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 - b. "sebomai (σέβομαι, 4576), "to revere," stressing the feeling of awe or devotion..." (Ibid)
 - c. "sebazomai (σεβάζομαι, 4573), akin to No. 2, "to honor religiously," is used in Rom. 1:25." (Ibid)
 - d. "latreuo (λατρεύω, 3000), "to serve, to render religious service or homage"" (Ibid)
 - e. "eusebeo (εὐσεβέω, 2151), "to act piously towards," is translated "ye worship" in Acts 17:23." (Ibid)
 - i. "A consideration of the above verbs shows that it is not confined to praise; broadly it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgment." (Ibid)
5. However most today do not take worshiping God seriously.
 - a. Gordon Dahl, "Most middle class Americans tend to worship their work, to work at their play, and to play at their worship. As a result, their meanings and values are distorted. Their relationships disintegrate faster than they can keep them in repair and their lifestyles resemble a cast of characters in search of a plot." (<http://webpages.marshall.edu/~cole8/sermons/WORSHIP.TXT>)

I. The Art Of Worship

- A. Worshiping God is an art
 1. Webster's defines art as "skill acquired by experience, study, or observation" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - i. And thus is worship, it requires skill gained by "experience, study, & observation."

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B. Worship demands skill

1. Experience

- i. One obvious way of learning is to experience something, in other words go through it.
 - a. Worship is no different we learn from being involved in.
- ii. Ways in which we gain experience.
 - a. Praying to God every chance we get.
 1. **I Th 5:17** "pray without ceasing"¹
 - b. Singing to God every chance we get.
 1. **Ja 5:13** "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms."
 2. **Ac 16:25** "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."
 - c. There's an old saying, "Practice makes perfect." As my old basketball coach use to say that isn't right, it should be "Perfect practice makes perfect."

2. Study

- i. We can't practice perfect worship w/o knowing how to properly worship.
 - a. Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (**Jn 4:24**)
- ii. What is worshiping in the spirit?
 - a. This is the biblical emotional resolve in following truth.
 1. Steve Higginbotham "one may submerge themselves in water throughout the Summer months in one's own backyard pool. There's nothing "spiritual" about that act. However, to perform this act with a view toward reenacting the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus makes this event spiritual."
(<http://preachinghelp.org/wordpress/?p=1118>)
 - b. This is more than worshiping with emotions as they can lead one astray (**Pr 14:12**). This is the emotional resolve to worship in truth only.
 - c. However emotions/enthusiasm should play a vital role.
 1. Go gladly **Ps 122:1**
 2. Worship reverently **Ps 95:6**
 3. Pray earnestly **Ja 5:16**
 4. Sing joyfully **Ps 95:1-2**
 5. Give freely **Mt 10:8**
 6. Listen attentively **Ja 1:19**
 7. Do dutifully **Ja 1:22**

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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iii. What is worshipping in truth?

a. This is worshipping according to the divine pattern found in the Word of God the Bible.

1. The acts of worship we must follow.

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| i. Singing | Co 3:16 |
| ii. Giving | I Co 16:1-2 |
| iii. Teaching/preaching | Ac 20:7-11 |
| iv. Lord's Supper | Mt 26:26-29 |
| v. Praying | I Th 5:17 |

3. Observation

i. This is the viewing of others while they worship.

a. There are those through the years I have looked at to see how they worshiped. How they presented themselves before God.

1. How they dressed.
2. How they sang.
3. How they prayed.
4. How they gave...

b. There is nothing wrong with observing others worship.

1. It should not consume our worship but there is nothing wrong with the occasional observation.

c. **Mk 12:41-44** "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and **saw** how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He **called His disciples to Himself** and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.""

II. The Attitude Of Worship

A. We must worship God rationally and sincerely.

1. There is a difference between form and faith.

- i. The Pharisees, Sadducees...were strong proponents of tradition/form/appearances.
- ii. However are worship must be of faith.

a. **Ro 10:17** "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

2. There is a difference between show and sincerity.

i. Many only "want" to be observed by men.

a. **Mt 6:1** "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

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- ii. We must come to worship with sincerity of heart.
 - a. **Ps 51:16-17** "For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise."
3. There is a difference between hypocrisy and holiness.
 - i. Jesus called some worshipers "hypocrites"
 - a. **Mt 6:5** "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."
 1. The word "hypocrite" originally meant a play actor
 - b. God wants holy worshipers who are authentic.
 1. **I Ch 16:29** "Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!"

III. The Area Of Worship

- A. Where does worship take place?
 1. Public Worship
 - i. **I Co 14:26ff**
 2. Private Worship
 - i. **Mt 6:6**
- B. When does worship take place?
 1. When an act of worship occurs per definition before.
 2. Without the act there is no worship
 - i. Every act however is worship.
 - ii. Better make sure it is accurate then.
 3. Every time one...
 - i. Sings psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
 - ii. Prays
 - iii. Gives of their means
 - iv. Partakes of the Lord's Supper
 - v. Studies or teaches God's Word...
 - a. "They worship"

CONCLUSION

1. Worshiping God is the greatest thing we can do as seen as evidence by the fact that, that is basically all we see being done in heaven.
 - a. **Rv 4-5**
2. Let us each make certain we are worshiping the God of all as He has patterned for us to worship Him.
 - a. Let us not be found unworthy but worthy in the sight of God.
3. Invitation²

² Alan C. Cole's Sermon outline called "Back To The Basics-Worship" was very instrumental in this outline.