

“O WORSHIP THE LORD”

1 Chronicles 16:28-29

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Worship is a natural human trait.
 - 1. Even remote tribes were worshipping something or someone when discovered.
 - 2. We will worship something even if it is ourselves, wealth or fame.
 - 2. Whether we will worship is not the issue, but *WHOM*, and with *WHAT GOAL*.
- B. **“Worship is a centerpiece of the Christian life.”**
- C. However, not all feel this way. Someone else has said, *“Most evidently some people do not enjoy coming to worship: they are so late in coming, so early in leaving, and so bored while there.”* Let us be careful that our worship is not described in that way.
- D. Scripture is filled with admonitions to worship.
 - 1. "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!" **1 Chronicles 16:29.**
 - 2. David wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" **Psalm 122:1.**
 - 3. Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" **John 4:24.**
- E. Don't be fooled into thinking that God will accept JUST ANYTHING in worship to Him:
 - 1. *CAIN* was not accepted. **Genesis 4:3-5.**
 - 2. *NADAB AND ABIHU* were not accepted. **Leviticus 10:1-2; Numbers 26:61.**
 - 3. *SAUL'S* offering was not accepted. **1 Samuel 13:8-10; 1 Samuel 15:22.**
- F. Worship is important, uplifting, and a serious matter in the sight of God.
- G. Let's study about worship and our participation in it:

I. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES DIFFERENT KINDS OF WORSHIP:

- A. **VAIN** worship, **Matthew 15:7-9.**
 - 1. Following traditions of men and ignoring the commands of God on a particular subject.
 - 2. Also, when worship is not done "from the heart.”
- B. **IGNORANT** worship. Referred to by Paul in **Acts 17:22-23.**
 - 1. This is worship offered in the absence of a knowledge of God's will concerning who He is and how He is to be worshiped.
 - 2. In Athens, they had erected an idol to the “Unknown God.”
 - 3. Even today, people can have a “zeal without knowledge” in worshipping Him.
- C. **WILL** worship. (SELF-MADE).
 - 1. Referred to by Paul in **Colossians 2:20-23** (KJV)
 - “Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in *will worship*, and humility, and

- neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.” **KJV.**
 - “These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in *self-imposed religion*,” **NKJ.**
 - “These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting *self-made religion*” **ESV.**
2. This worship, closely aligned with *VAIN* worship:
 - a. Is the result of doing what WE like and WE think is good
 - b. But not taught by God in His Word (cf. Nadab & Abihu)
- D. TRUE worship, John 4:20-24.**
1. This is the type of worship expected by God today ("an hour is coming, and NOW IS")
 2. It is VERY IMPORTANT to worship God in just the way He has outlined.
- E. THOUGHTS ABOUT KINDS OF WORSHIP:**
1. It should be evident, then, that not just ANY worship is acceptable to God!
 2. There are different kinds that can be offered, but only ONE is acceptable.
 3. Since God will only accept "TRUE" WORSHIP, we had better understand what is involved in it.

II. THE THREE MAIN GREEK WORDS FOR WORSHIP:

- A. *The most often used word (60 times) is "proskuneo,"*** (pros-koo-neh'-o); which is defined as:
1. *"kissing the hand, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence."* (Joseph Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, 548).
 2. *"to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e., (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore).* (Strong's Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary).
 3. *"When the New Testament uses (proskuneo), the object is always something, truly or supposedly, divine."* (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, 6:763).
 4. Usage of this word *does not mean that we must worship on our knees*, but that we should have the same *attitude* expressed here. We are *bending our spirits* when we worship.
 5. Examples: **Matthew 4:10; John 4:24.**
- B. *The second most often used (21 times) is "latrueo,"*** (lat-ryoo'-o), which is defined as
1. To *"render religious service or homage, to worship; to perform sacred services; to offer gifts; to worship God in the observance of rites instituted for worship."* (Thayer, 373).
 2. *"To minister (to God), i.e., render, religious homage:"* (Strong's Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary).
 3. Examples: **Matthew 4:10; Acts 24:14.**

- C. **The third most often used word (10 times) is "sebomai"**(seb'-om-ahee) which stresses:
1. The "*feeling of awe or devotion*" toward the object of our worship". (W.E. Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, 4:235-236).
 2. "*To revere, i.e., adore:*" (Strong's Concordance with Greek-Hebrew Dictionary).
 3. Examples: **Matthew 15:9; Acts 16:14.**
- D. To Sum it Up: **Proper worship is an act of humility that is directed toward God because of our awe and devotion.**

III. FROM THESE BRIEF WORD STUDIES WE LEARN THAT WORSHIP ALWAYS INVOLVES AT LEAST THREE COMPONENTS.

A. Worship involves INTENT:

1. You cannot *accidentally* worship.
2. Every single action in your life is not worship; there must be intent involved.
3. Biblical Examples:
 - a. Before Abraham carried Isaac up on the mountain in order to sacrifice him, he told the young men who had accompanied them, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will *go yonder and worship*, and we will come back to you." **Genesis 22:5.**
 - b. After David and Bathsheba's baby died, he arose and went into the temple and worshiped, **2 Samuel 12:20.**
 - c. The Ethiopian Eunuch had been to Jerusalem for the purpose of worshipping, **Acts 8:27.**
4. Worship involves INTENT that comes as a result of our love, gratitude and appreciation for God.

B. Worship involves ACTION.

1. Abraham and Isaac went up to the mountain, **Genesis 22:5.**
2. This stands in stark contrast to the attitudes of many during worship.
3. Elton Trueblood said that "*Worship may be the greatest spectator sport in the world.*"
4. Worship always involves participation. We are not a theatrical audience surveying the scene with a critical eye. We are to be actively involved on a personal level.
5. We must *plan* for worship and *be ready* to begin, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We are coming before God when we worship him.
6. *Attendance must never be equated with worship.* We draw near to God, not the building (Matthew 15:8).

- C. **Worship involves REVERENCE** which means "*an attitude of deep respect, honor and deference.*" (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 4:177).
1. The Oxford Dictionary defines worship as "*reverence or veneration paid to a being or power regarded as supernatural or divine.*"
 2. I used to say that we ought to be as reverent in worship as we are in *funerals*. But people are not as reverent at funerals as they used to be.
 3. ILLUSTRATION: If we would imagine ourselves at the feet of God, we would instantly see dramatic changes in the attitudes of worshipers in our congregations. Imagine physically sitting before the throne of God! *Would we talk, laugh, sleep, write notes, giggle, text, inspect what others are wearing, wander in and out of the auditorium if we sat at the feet of God? Absolutely not!*
- D. Proper worship will include: INTENT, ACTION AND REVERENCE.

IV. WHAT IS MY VIEW OF WORSHIP?

- A. Do I LOOK FORWARD to it?
- B. Do I DREAD it?
- C. Do I PREPARE for it?
- D. Am I ACTIVE in worship?
- E. Am I REVERENT in worship?
- F. Does my worship get any HIGHER THAN THE CEILING of the auditorium?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Worship is a natural part of man.
- B. How often and how well do I worship?
- C. EACH OF US NEEDS TO EXAMINE OUR HEARTS AND MAKE CHANGES IF OUR WORSHIP IS NOT WHAT WE HAVE STUDIED TODAY.

WORSHIP CONCEPTS

Initial idea from article by Richard Mansel

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