

What is Worship?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. You will not do anything in this world more important than worshiping God: not getting married, not raising children, not earning a living; nothing you will ever do is more important than worshiping God.
 - 1. You do not come to worship “to get a blessing,” or for any other self-oriented purpose. We come together to give honor, respect, and reverence to the Lord God Almighty. You do not come here for what YOU get out of it!
 - 2. There are 87 Hebrew and Greek words that are used to describe the concepts of praise and worship. There are over 600 references to praise and worship in the Bible. Worship literally fills the pages of Scripture from beginning to end.
 - 3. From Genesis 3 to Revelation 22, and all points in between, the Bible talks about worshiping God
 - 4. Worship is the absolute non-negotiable of the Christian life. The Christian must worship. The truly redeemed child of God cannot remain in Christ without worshiping God. It is as natural for a Christian to worship as it is for a person to breathe.
- B. What is this all important matter called worship?

I. WHY DOES GOD REQUIRE THAT WE WORSHIP HIM?

- A. The answer is in the definition of worship. Worship means “to give honor, homage, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to a superior being.”
 - 1. God alone is worthy of worship because He alone is superior.
 - a. Rev. 4:11; Ex. 20:3-5; Rom. 12:1
 - b. When we worship with an obedient heart and an open and repentant spirit, God is glorified, Christians are purified, the church is edified and the lost are evangelized.
 - 2. Our eternal destiny depends on our worship of the true and living God.
 - a. Phil. 3:3; John 4:23-24
 - b. The church is made up of those who worship God. Those who do not worship the true and living God are none of His, and their eternal destiny is hell. True worshippers are identified by their worship of God; their eternal home is with the God they adore.
 - 3. It is our nature as God’s children to worship Him.
 - a. Acts 17:22-27; 2Thes. 2:10-11
 - b. Those who do not worship God become warped and twisted in their beings, unfulfilled and incomplete
- B. However, when we are asked why we worship God, our answers are often vague because we take worship for granted and seldom think it through.
 - 1. The most basic answer is that He is the great and powerful Creator and we, the smaller and weaker creation. Therefore, we humble ourselves and honestly acknowledge it through worship

2. Good start, but it is just a start.
3. The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery says, "Worship is first and foremost a verb, an action" (p.970). So many equate worship with either a place or a feeling.
4. The New Bible Dictionary, both the "Hebrew aboda, and the Greek latreia originally signified the labor of slaves or hired servants" (p. 1262)
5. Worship is homage consisting of both an attitude of deep respect, adoration, reverence and awe and the activities designed to describe the position and worth of the One worshiped.
6. God initiates our worship of Him, and our response in worship is a response to Him. He instructs us in Who His is and what His relationship is to us, and then tells us how to respond in return.

II. CAN WE NOT WORSHIP?

- A. Phil. 2:9-11; Matt. 28:18; Rom. 14:11; Rev. 5:13
 1. So high and great is Jesus that eventually the knees of everyone born or created will bend in reverent homage to Him.
- B. Matt. 4:9-10 - There is no one else to choose
 1. Psalm 45:10-11 - But we must choose to worship God
 2. You may or may not choose to obey the Gospel, but you must choose to obey the Gospel
- C. Psalm 99:5, 9, 100:4-5; Ex. 34:5-8
 1. He is so worthy of our worship, how can we do otherwise?
 2. His every attribute transcends the very best of angels or men. His power, vision, wisdom, mercy, kindness, goodness, patience, judgment and any other quality that we might name are all higher than the heavens are above the earth. They are all immersed within and activated by His love, which passes all understanding.
 3. Acts 10:24-26; Rev. 19:10
- D. Psalm 115:3-11; Rom. 1:22-25
 1. Therefore, anyone who does not worship God, and Him only, is by default worshiping something other and lesser than He is.
 2. A man can rise no higher or be no stronger than his idol. Your job, your family, your pleasures, your plans...
 3. An athlete, entertainer or politician -- fallible, weak human beings.
- E. 1Cor. 15:49; 2Cor. 3:18
 1. Worship illuminates what we will be
 2. Worship should cause us to reflect on the majesty and graciousness of God and Christ, contrasted to our own present unworthiness. But it also teaches us what we shall become through the grace of God and blood of Christ

Conclusion:

- A. We worship Jesus now, but we will be like Him one day
- B. 1John 3:1-3; James 4:8