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What About Worship?

We have sat under fifty-two studies, a series entitles “What About?” that were followed by a particular subject, topic or doctrine!

In view of all this Divine revelation from God about God, creation, man, sin, Satan and many other things that we are able to understand and apply to our lives, the only thing a believer can do is to worship God!

So we want to finish the series with our final study, “What About Worship?”

* Worship is not based on methods, instruments or on one’s emotional experience, but on our response to God to His word from our hearts!

We want to answer the question, “What About worship?” by asking three questions about worship.

- I. What is worship to God?
- II. Why are we to worship God?
- III. How are we to worship God?

I. What is worship to God?

A. Worship in our English language comes from a Saxon word.

1. The Greek word “weorthscip”, means worthship, which describes the worth of the person or thing receiving special honor.

* When we conclude this, we treat a person or object as unique and different from a common things.

2. The word worship in it’s most basic meaning has the idea of dedication and devotion to a person or thing that is valued more than self.
3. The act and practice of worship is ascribed to different things in scripture, to God, creation, false gods, etc.

B. Worship is uniquely ascribed to God alone in both the Old and New Testaments.

1. Moses received the ten words on Mount Sinai, the first two commandments dealt with worship. Ex. 20:3, 5

* This is the most basic understanding!

2. Jesus refused to worship Satan and declared that worship is exclusive to be given to the Lord our God. Lk. 4:8

* Worship Him and only Him!

- a. Worship to anyone or thing is idolatry!
- b. You can worship your wife, husband, children, your occupation, intellect, money, your Pastor, programs, etc.
- c. We are to worship no one, but God and ascribe worth to Christ, for He is the One who makes all things worth while and valuable!

C. Worship in the Old Testament is picturesque.

1. The most common word is “shahah” and means to depress, bow down or prostrate.

- a. This is one of the key postures of man in Scripture.
 - b. We all have seen pagans bowing down prostrated to an image.
 - * Israel believed the Lord had visited them and looked on their affliction; therefore they bowed their heads and worshipped. Ex. 4:31
2. There is another word “ebed” it means servant, the idea being service of every kind, acts of adoration as well as doing chores.
- * God told Moses, “You shall serve God on this mountain.” Ex. 3:12d
 - a. With worship comes service.
 - b. You extend yourself.
 - c. Therefore worship is not confined to singing or lifting of one’s hands.
 - d. Because hands can be lifted and no worship taking place in reality.
- D.** Worship in the New Testament is also picturesque.
- 1. The most common word is “proskuneo” which means to kiss the hand or the ground, once again the idea is prostration and adoration and worth..
 - a. The word is used of God, Christ, man, demons and idols.
 - b. John tells us that the angels and elders around the throne fell on their faces and worshipped God. Rev. 7:11
 - * This word appears the most in the book of Revelation, twenty-four.

- 2. There are other words that mean service, worship, honor and religious homage.
 - * Paul says, “I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies. . . which is your reasonable “service”, the word is “*letreia*”. Rom. 12:1
- 3. There is a very obvious unifying idea and relation between worship and service in the Scriptures, they are inseparable.
 - a. If you worship God, then you will be serving.
 - c. If you are not serving, then you are missing the true meaning of worship.

Illustration

When you buy any tool or appliance it comes with instructions on how to use it, as well as a guarantee that if it is used as it was prescribed by those that designed it and something goes wrong, they will stand behind their product.

* So with worship is efficient and accepted only as has been prescribed in the word of God!

The worship of God is to be according to the scriptures!

II. Why are we to worship God?

- A. First because God is our Creator.
 - * “You are worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honor and power: for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” Rev. 4:11
- 1. We were made to worship God.
 - a. Some people have a difficult time with this.

- b. It seems foolish, if you were design for the worship of God and you rebel, you are adding to your own hurt.
 - c. Every tool is designed with a purpose and if you use it as such, it will be effective and efficient, so it is rational that God has designed me for Him.
2. We are to recognize that worship is the theme in heaven.
- a. The elders are prostrated before the throne.
 - b. Get used to it, it is the first thing you will see in heaven.
- B.** Second because God redeemed us and made us a kingdom of kings and priests.
- * “And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Rev. 5:9-10
1. The only people that can meet the description is the church of Jesus Christ.
- a. The church is before the throne having been raptured prior to the Tribulation period.
 - b. He has made us a kingdom of priests and kings, having taken us from being lost to being saved.
2. Taking us from enemies to sons and daughters.
- a. Regardless of how moral you were prior to Christ you were an enemy of God.

- b. He died when we were ungodly, that is the reason why Jesus can ask of us to forgive our enemies and those who have hurt us personally.
 - c. God never asks me to do anything, unless He enables me, as I deny myself.
- C.** Third because of God’s goodness.
- * “I will worship Your holy temple, and praise Your name for your loving kindness and Your truth: For You have magnified your word above all Your name.” Ps. 138:2
- 1. For our pardon.
 - 2. For our provisions.
 - 3. For our protection.
 - 4. For so many other things.
- D.** Fourth because of God’s marvelous works and wonders.
- * “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before you, For your judgments have been manifested.” Rev. 15:3-4
- 1. His work of redemption.
 - 2. His work of justification.
 - 3. His work of reconciliation.
 - 4. His work of regeneration.

5. God did for us what we could never do for ourselves and yet He never throws it up in our face or pressures us.
6. God merely waits for our response.
 - * “The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord: Your faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints.” Ps. 89:5

Illustration

Paul expressed in Philippians, “I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”. Phil. 3:10-11

The reasons for the worship of God are found in the Scriptures!

III. How are we to worship God?

- A. We are to worship God in praise.
 - * “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”. Ps. 150:6
 - 1. There are numerous words used in the Old Testament.
 - a. There is the word “Halal” it means to acclaim, to boast, to glory in and there are a group of Psalms called Hallel Psalms, to express a deep satisfaction in exaltation of the acts and qualities of one being praised. Ps. 113-118
 - b. The word “Yadah” means to praise, to give thanks and to confess God’s goodness.

- c. The word “Todah” focuses on the acknowledgment of God’s works and character often in contrast with human failure.
- d. There is “Zamar” to sing praise and make music focusing on the use of instruments of music in praise to God.
 - 1) Many Psalms were written for cornet, cymbals, harp, organ, timbrel and trumpet. Ps. 4, 9, 11, 12, 22, 42, 45, 53, 60, 61, 62, 81
 - 2) Remember that Satan, Lucifer was the quire director in heaven prior to his fall. Ezk. 28:13
- e. The word “sabah” means to praise or commend, directed to God with rich adoration.
 - 1) The instruments and music are amoral and too much has been said against them, the words are the important factor, not the kind of musical instruments!
 - * I can either use a pen to write good words or bad words, the pen is amoral!
 - 2) Doesn’t music make time go by faster and more enjoyable?
2. The words in the New Testament for worship are also numerous.
 - a. The word “aineo” to praise appearing nine times in the New Testament.
 - * The angels appeared to the shepherds and the heavenly host appeared “*praising*” God saying, “Glory to God in the highest”. Lk 2:13

- b. The word “ainos” is another form found twice in the New Testament.
 - * “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise.” Matt. 21:16
- c. There is another related form “epainos” meaning to applaud, found six times in the New Testament.
 - 1) The master commended the unjust steward. Lk. 16:8
 - a) Jesus used the parable to teach that the son of the world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. We are to be faithful in the unrighteous money for eternal things.
 - b) When one is applauded, it means “well done”.
 - 2) This word appears another eleven times in a different forms and translated “praise”.
- d. The word “doxa” meaning glory, dignity and majesty, appear one-hundred-sixty-eight times in the New Testament.
 - 1) There were ten lepers only one returned to give God “doxa”. Lk. 17:18
 - 2) Jesus said, ‘Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory...’ Lk. 21:27
- e. The last word “humneo” means to hymn, celebrate in song, found four times in the New Testament.

- 1) At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. Acts 16:25
 - 2) The cognate form is found in the following.
 - a) “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph. 5:19-20
 - b) “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3:16
- B. We are to worship God the Father in Spirit and truth. Jn. 4:24**
- 1. Jesus taught that only sons and daughters can worship the Father, **not** religious people.
 - a. She was stunned that Jesus spoke to her, being a Rabbi.
 - b. Jesus went from Rabbi to Savior of the world, the title was not given in Jerusalem but Samaria.
 - * When your children express their excessive love to you, it is comfortable not awkward, but if someone else does that, it is awkward and uncomfortable!
 - 2. Jesus taught that worship is spiritual not merely physical.

- a. Not in Gerizim nor in Jerusalem but in one's heart, the circumcision who worships God in the Spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh. Phil 3:3
 - b. We cry out by the Holy Spirit from our hearts, "Ababa Father". Gal. 4:6
* Till the day my Dad died, I called him "Papi", "Daddy", I was 44 years old!
3. Jesus taught that worship is to be according to truth, according to God's revelation and no other.
- a. God honors His word above His name. Ps. 138:2
 - 1) Nadab and Abiu offered strange fire to God. Lev. 10
 - 2) All things decent and in order, not bringing attention to yourself.
 - 3) Laughing in the Spirit, slaying in the Spirit, etc.
 - b. Paul tells the Galatians that anyone who proclaims another gospel is to be damned.
* If you go beyond the word, add to the word or take away from the word, you are in trouble!
- C. We are to worship God in our lives.
- 1. Through physical posture we worship.
 - a. Solomon fell on his knees and lifted his hands to worship. 1Kings 8:22-23
 - b. We are to lift up holy hands without wrath and doubting. 1Tim. 2:8
 - 1) The idea is complete dependence, pureness of heart and worship.

- 2) Posture varies through Scripture, but it should only be the outward expression of the inner reality!
2. Through practical obedience to the Word of God we worship.
- a. "Now we know that God hears not sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does His will, He hears him." Jn. 9:31
 - b. Obedience is better than sacrifice... 1Sam. 15:22c
 - c. Obedience is one form of worship to God.
3. Through our private and quiet times we worship.
- a. "Meditate within your heart on your bed and be still." Ps. 4:4
 - b. "Be still and know that I am God." Ps. 46:10
 - c. Be careful that you are not driven by emotionalism, yet you can express your emotions to God!
 - d. Learn to distinguish between the two!
4. Through our corporate worship.
- a. Solomon worshipped in the temple and the glory filled it and all ran out. 2Chron. 5:11-14
 - b. They continued in the temple daily with one accord praising God. Acts 2:46-47
 - c. Peter, John and others gathered to pray for boldness and worship God. Acts 4:23-31
 - d. Remember the believer is to sing songs and hymns in his heart. Eph. 5:19-20; Col 3:16

- 1) In Ephesians it is the result of the Holy Spirit in us.
- 2) In Colossians it is the result of the word in us.

Illustration

Martin Luther claimed that, “To know God is to worship Him and that worship is not an optional extra for the godly person, but an essential symptom or expression of that knowledge.”

The nanner we are to worship God in our lives is prescribed in the Scriptures!

IV. What have we learned about worship?

- A. Worship is not confined or limited to what happens on Sunday morning as we worship in music.
 1. Many people think it is a fill in time to wait for the stragglers to walk in late.
 2. Some think it takes talented musicians to worship, rather than committed hearts.
- B. Worship is primarily a response to the revelation of God in my life.
 1. To who He is as Creator.
 2. To what He has done in redeeming me.
 3. To what He promises to keep me and provide for me.
 - a. Worship is not passive nor a mood or feeling, but a response to God’s initiation!
 - b. “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Heb. 13:15

- C. Worship consists of praise, prayer, adoration and thanksgiving to God in acknowledgment of His worth, with lifted hands, prostration of body and song.
 1. Declaring our devotion to Him.
 2. Declaring our dependency on Him.
 3. Declaring our delight in Him.
 - * Angels, elders and every creature in heaven and earth cry out, “You are worthy Lord to receive glory, honor and power.” Rev. 4:11-13
- D. Worship is spiritual and must be according to the truth of God’s word from the heart.
 1. God does not look on the outward appearance as man. 1Sam. 16:7
 2. Corporately the church as living stones is being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1Pet. 2:5
 - * Everything according to His word for it is the standard for life and practice!

Illustration

When queen Victoria had just ascended her throne she went, as is custom of royalty, to hear “The Messiah” rendered. She had been instructed as to her conduct by those who knew, and was told that she must not rise when the others stood at the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. When that magnificent chorus was being sung and the singers were shouting “Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,” she sat down with great difficulty.

It seemed as if she would rise in spite of the custom of Kings and Queens, but finally when they came to that part of the chorus where with a shout they proclaim him King of Kings suddenly the young queen rose and stood with bowed head, as if she would take her crown from off her and cast it at His feet. # 7587

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-36

These lessons on the worship of God are important for our lives because they come from the Scriptures!

Conclusion

We have answered the question, “What About worship?” by asking three questions about worship.

- I. What is worship to God?
- II. Why are we to worship God?
- III. How are we to worship God?