

The Importance and Meaning of Worship

Introduction

- A. Question: What's the most important, most valuable, most productive activity a person could become involved in? Answer: It is to worship God.
- B. Every believer would accept the above answer. And yet in the light of our daily priorities and practice, we may indicate (perhaps prove) that worship is not the most important, valuable, nor productive activity of our life.

I. The Definition of Worship

- A. The word "worship" means "to attribute worth" to something or someone. (Allen and Borrer, Worship Multnomah Press, p 16)
- B. Definition: "Worship is an active response to God whereby we declare His worth." The authors go on to show that worship is also a way whereby "we celebrate God" and point to Psalm 96; Psalm 100, and Rev 5:12,13 as examples. See also I Chron 16:25-29; Ps 29:2; 95:6; 99:5,9; Zech 14:16,17; John 4:20-24; Heb 1:6; Rev 4:10,11; and Rev 15:4.
- C. It is helpful to keep in mind that worship is a declaration of truth. In our worship we ascribe to Him the worth He is worthy to receive. We declare it, by thought, by word, by our actions, and by the decisions related to our worship.
1. Worship is the declaration and celebration of God's existence, of His character, His attributes, His decrees, His grace, His provision, and works.
 2. Worship enables one to practice the Bible. We declare in worship that Jesus Christ is Lord, that His name is above every name, and we submit to His Lordship.

II. The Importance of Worship

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:23,24

Comment: The word "Spirit" in reference to God indicates all He is as God. And "spirit" in reference to our worship indicates we are to do so "spiritually," i.e. in harmony with His work within: creation in His image, the rebirth and ministry of the Holy Spirit. The word "truth" means we are to worship based on the revelation He has given of Himself (V22).

III. Some Characteristics of Worship

- A. **Adoration:** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created, Rev 4:11
- B. **Praise:** Praise ye the LORD, Praise ye the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights, Ps 148:1 (Praise is repeated nine times in the Psalm.)
- C. **Thanksgiving:** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name, Ps 100:4.
- D. **Reverence:** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, Heb 12:28.
- E. **Love:** I will love thee, O LORD, my strength, Ps 18:1.
- F. **Declaration:** The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower, Ps 18:2.
- G. **Commitment:** I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from mine enemies, Ps 18:3.

IV. Suggestions Regarding How To Worship God

- A. Use the names of God as a basis for worship.

Example: Look up verses on the subject of "Father." Meditate on all the ways He is a Father to us and what that should mean. Turn the truth into worship, trust, and action.

- B. Use the attributes of God as a basis for worship.

Example: Make a list of divine attributes and look up passages that explain each of the terms. Praise Him for Who He is.

- C. Use the works of God as a basis for worship.

Example: Meditate on the greatness, wisdom, and power of creation, providence, revelation, and redemption. Find verses that explain each subject. Turn it all into worship.

- D. Use the examples in the Bible as a basis for worship.

Example: It will help to read the Bible aloud to God in reverence, gratitude, and trust. Sing to Him. Pray the prayers and Psalms of the Bible as your own prayer.

Conclusion: If we do not worship God we are saying, "He is not worthy of worship."

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