

Ephesians Series

Lesson #234

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Dean Bible Ministries

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How Should We Define Worship? – Part 2

Ephesians 5:18–21; Isaiah 6:1–4



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Results of being filled by the Spirit:

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Results of the Word dwelling richly:

Col 3:16b, “... teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

What are Our Assumptions?

Summary:

- **The Scripture is our sole authority on worship.**
- **God and God alone defines worship.**

Isa. 6:1, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Isa. 6:2, “Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.”

Isa. 6:3, “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ ”

**קָדוֹשׁ *qadosh* masc sing abs holy, unique,
distinct, one of a kind, set apart**

**כְּבוֹד *kavod* comm masc sing constr heavy,
weighty, important, also liver**

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

**The Immensity
of God**



What the Bible Teaches About

The Holiness of God



Isa. 6:3, “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ ”

Rev. 4:8, “The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’ ”

ESSENCE OF GOD

Holy

Sovereign

Omniscient

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

Immutability

Isa. 45:18, “For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’”

Isa. 45:21, “Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.”

Examples of Worship

Gen. 3:8, “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Gen. 3:9, “Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’

Gen. 3:10, “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ ”

Job 40:3, “Then Job answered the LORD and said:

Job 40:4, “ ‘Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

Job 40:5, “ ‘Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.’ ”

Gen. 28:16, “Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.’

Gen. 28:17, “And he was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!’ ”

At Sinai

Ex. 19:10, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

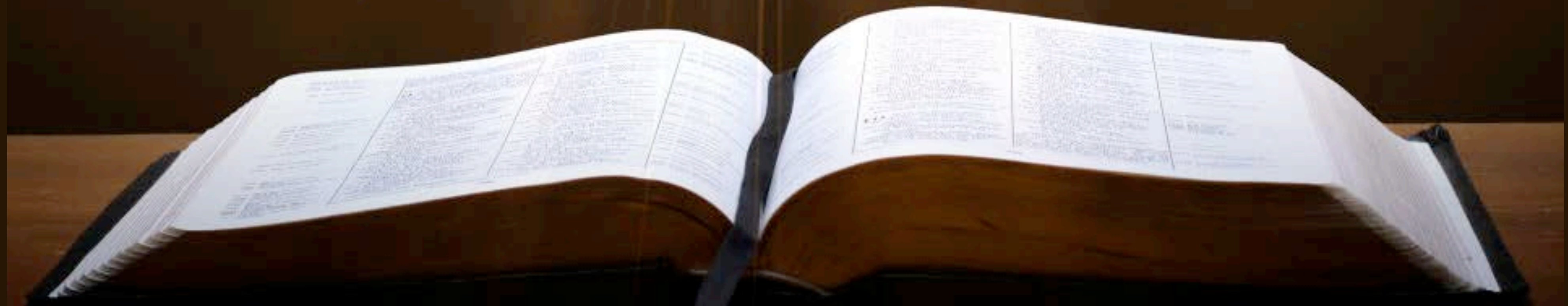
Ex. 19:11, “ ‘And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Ex. 19:12, “ ‘You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, “Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

Ex. 19:13, “ ‘ “Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.” When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.’ ”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

The Meaning of Worship



Introductory Principles of Corporate Worship

- 1. God defines worship, He defines how we worship, and the conditions of worship.**
- 2. Worship is not determined by how we feel, but by our conformity to God's righteousness and His revelation.**
- 3. Worship means to "bow down to God." Thus worship signifies submission to God's will.**

Introductory Principles of Corporate Worship

4. Worship has order and structure.

1 Cor. 14:33, “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

Introductory Principles of Corporate Worship

5. Worship, like everything else in our thinking, talking, and actions, is not to be shaped by the ideology of our culture.

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the spirit of the age [the *zeitgeist* of the culture], but be transformed by making your thinking new, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.”

***αἰών aiōn* (m) age, time period within a culture of a civilization
zeitgeist, German for the “spirit of the times”**

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

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The English derives from the Old English *weorthscipe* ‘worthiness, acknowledgement of worth’ (see worth, -ship). ~COED

1 The feeling (?) or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.

4 *archaic* honour given in recognition of merit.

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

Elwell: *Webster’s Dictionary* for the precise meaning of worship (adore, idolize, esteem worthy, reverence, homage, etc.). “Yet truly defining worship proves more difficult because it is both an attitude and an act.”

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

***New Bible Dictionary: WORSHIP.* ‘Worship’ (Old English ‘weorthscipe’=‘worth-ship’) originally referred to the action of human beings in expressing homage to God because he is worthy of it. It covers such activities as adoration, thanksgiving, prayers of all kinds, the offering of sacrifice and the making of vows.**

The Meaning of “Worship”

1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Eph. 2:19, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Eph. 2:21, “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Eph. 2:22, “in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

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Biblical Uses of Worship

Gen. 22:5, “And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.’ ”

**2-חָוָה *chawah-2* hishtaf imperf (170×)
to bow, to prostrate oneself, to worship**

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Neh. 8:6, “And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.”

Biblical Uses of Worship

Matt. 2:2, “saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’ ”

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προσκυνέω *proskuneō* 60 ✕

aor act infin

to fall down to worship;

to do obeisance; to

submit to authority

Biblical Uses of Worship

“Worship” is primarily a mental attitude of submission to God.

Worship is not a feeling, but a mental attitude, even when we do not *feel* so worshipful.

Biblical Uses of Worship

John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father by means of the Spirit and by means of Truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 4:24, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship by means of the Spirit and by means of Truth.”

Biblical Uses of Worship

Php. 3:3, “For we are the [spiritual] circumcision, who worship God by means of the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,”

A working definition:

True Worship is:

The celebration of being in covenant [eternal] fellowship with the sovereign and holy triune God (in the OT, the Abrahamic Covenant; in the NT, the death of Christ is the sacrifice of the New Covenant),

By means of

- The reverent adoration and spontaneous praise of God's nature and works,**
- The expressed commitment of trust and obedience to the responsibilities of the Church Age believer, and**
- The memorial reenactment of entering into covenant through ritual acts (baptism, communion),**

All with the confident anticipation of the fulfillment of the covenant promises in glory.

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All with the confident anticipation of the fulfillment of the covenant promises in glory.

“The words of worship flow so easily from our lips that we seldom stop to think about them: we casually talk about knowing the Lord; we say we talk to God and in one way or another hear from God. We attend churches on Sundays to have, as we say, fellowship with God and each other. There we celebrate the belief that He is our God with songs and hymns, but even these have become so familiar to us that our minds drift to other, more immediate concerns. And when we approach the Lord’s Table, to eat with God as it were, we often do not have enough time to appreciate what it means. In short, our worship services have become time-bound and routine. We have been so successful in fitting God into our important schedules that worship is often just another activity. But it should be anything but routine and ordinary ...”

~Allen P. Ross, *Recalling the Hope of Glory*

“Our attention to the Lord must not be an ordinary part of life; our worship of him should be the most momentous, urgent, and glorious activity in our lives.”

~Allen P. Ross

The Impact of the World Upon Worship

The Greek word used in Romans 12:2 is not *kosmos*, but *aionos*, a word that emphasizes the time element. It is the spirit of the times or the worldview.

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the spirit of the age [the *zeitgeist* of the culture], but be transformed by making your thinking new, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.”

The Impact of the World Upon Worship

- 1. It has made worship more anthropocentric instead of theocentric and Christocentric.**

2. It has made our concept of God and worship anemic, diluted, and insipid. By minimizing our view of God, it negatively impacts our response to Him.

It reflects an impoverished understanding of our relationship with God in the Church Age.

3. One result is that we have worship: prayers, songs, giving, communion, and the ministry of the Word that has been corrupted, i.e., its all been dumbed down and the self has become the focus.

Our relationship with God becomes casual and informal. Though in some ways Jesus is our friend, it is hard to be a buddy with a consuming fire.

4. We loose sight of the majesty of God, the incomprehensible power of God, the incomparable holiness of God, the rigor of God's righteousness, and the immensity of God's love.

5. To restore our vision of God we should:

- Remember that this is He who created us from the dust of the ground, the chemicals of the soil, and breathed life into us.**
- Reflect upon His work of creation, redemption, sanctification, and our future glorification to serve Him.**
- Consider how our lives must point others to Him, and that we should serve Him and therefore others to bring honor to Him.**

6. As a result we should think in terms of what we do in worship.

Ross asks these questions:

- How then can we talk casually of this Lord?**
- How can we merely slot Him into our fully scheduled lives?**
- How can we think there might be more important things for us to do in life than to worship Him.**

1. Job 38:4–7

Job 38:4, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Job 38:5, “Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

Job 38:6, “To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

Job 38:7, “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Three implications:

First, that it was perfect in itself, that it was a form and function of music that was uncorrupted and untainted by anything less than ethical perfection.

Second, this implies necessarily that there is a standard by which music should be evaluated. In other words, there is GOOD music and BAD music.

Third, we must understand that music as music, is a language that communicates. It communicates nonverbally just as the “heavens declare the glory of God.”

Psa. 19:0, “To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Psa. 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psa. 19:2, “Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

Psa. 19:3, “There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Psa. 19:4, “Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,”

2. We learn that “Lucifer,” *Helel ben Shahar*, Satan’s name before the Fall, was a master musician.

Ezek. 28:12, “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Ezek. 28:13, “ ‘ “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.” ’ ”

Concluding Observations

- 1. Worship must be in Spirit and Truth, John 4.**
- 2. Worship is a response to who God is and what He has done in history.**
- 3. The central focus of Worship is God's work of redemption. For us in the Church Age this is a reflection on what He did and our future hope.**
- 4. Thus at the center of Worship is the study of God's Word, for only in this do we learn who God is, what He has accomplished, and our future destiny.**

Concluding Observations

- 5. Worship is integral to the spiritual life. A spiritual life without worship is empty, and worship without the spiritual life is meaningless.**
- 6. Worship is both corporate and individual.**
- 7. Worship involves ritual, reflection, remembrance, and learning.**
- 8. Worship is not measured by emotion, but by objective standards of the Word of God based in our own personal thoughts in response to what we have learned about God through our hymns and the teaching of the Scripture.**