

Worship

Introduction:

- A. “Worship” - 142 verse in KJV – 40 in NT.
- B. Worship (noun)
 - 1. The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object.
 - 2. The ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by which this love is expressed.
- C. Worship (Verb)
 - 1. To participate in religious rites of worship.
 - 2. To perform an act of worship.
- D. We want to look at some questions about Scriptural worship.

Discussion:

I. What is Biblical “Worship”?

- A. It is not a synonym for “service” or “obedience.”
 - 1. All worship is service and obedience, but not all service/obedience is worship.
 - 2. Read verse where “serve” and “worship” used together.
 - 3. Are to obey parents, husbands, government, etc. – not worship them.
 - 4. Servants are to serve masters – not worship them.
- B. It is an overt act that is specifically directed to object of worship
 - 1. Read passages on “worshiped”
 - 2. In Bible used of worship or supernatural.
 - a. False Gods
 - b. True God
 - c. Angels (Col. 2:18)
 - d. Man (Acts 10:25)

II. What Can Make Worship More Meaningful?

- A. What is the purpose of worship – honor God or make me feel better?
 - 1. Are we interested more in making it meaningful to us or to God?
 - 2. “Will worship” is me centered rather than God centered (cf. Col. 2:23)
- B. Worship is an act of the mind focused on God as we perform the act of worship to him.
- C. Where should mind be focused on God or on persons touching you?
 - 1. How does holding hands with neighbor cause you to focus more on God?
 - 2. Pray “put away from us anything that distracts?” – then distracted by holding hands etc.
- D. How does lifting of hands and doing the “wave” make it more meaningful?
 - 1. An emotional outpouring.
 - 2. Not a mental inpouring of edification.
- E. How does spontaneous worship make it more meaningful?
 - 1. Was that not what Paul condemns in 1 Cor. 14: 26-49?
- F. Does doing the same old “5 items” have to lose the meaning of each?
 - 1. The problem is not with repetition, but lack of appreciation for meaning of each item.
- G. What can really make it more meaningful?
 - 1. An self generated emotional high?
 - 2. Or a calm mind focused on the communion enjoyed with God with each act offered to him.

Conclusion:

- A. Where do we get many of the “techniques” for “meaningful worship”?
 - 1. From a diligent study of the Biblical text?
 - 2. From observing the “worship” of protestant denominations?
- B. Beware of fascinations with anything new – automatically abhor “traditional” (Acts 17:21)

“Worship” and “Serve”

De 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, [even] all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to **worship** them, and **serve** them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

De 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and **serve** them, and **worship** them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

De 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and **serve** other gods, and **worship** them;

De 30:17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and **worship** other gods, and **serve** them;

1Ki 9:6 [But] if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments [and] my statutes which I have set before you, but go and **serve** other gods, and **worship** them:

2Ch 7:19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and **serve** other gods, and **worship** them;

Ps 97:7 Confounded be all they that **serve** graven images, that boast themselves of idols: **worship** him, all [ye] gods.

Jer 13:10 This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to **serve** them, and to **worship** them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

Jer 25:6 And go not after other gods to **serve** them, and to **worship** them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

Da 3:12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they **serve** not thy gods, nor **worship** the golden image which thou hast set up.

Da 3:14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, [Is it] true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye **serve** my gods, nor **worship** the golden image which I have set up?

Da 3:18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not **serve** thy gods, nor **worship** the golden image which thou hast set up.

Da 3:28 ¶ [Then] Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed [be] the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not **serve** nor **worship** any god, except their own God.

Mt 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship** the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou **serve**.

Lu 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship** the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou **serve**.