



Worship in the Church

*“Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory.”*

-Isaiah 6:3

Outline of the Study of the Doctrine of Worship

1. Introduction
2. Theology of Worship
3. The first day and the “assembly”
4. The Lord’s Supper
5. Stewardship
6. Prayer
7. Singing

INTRODUCTION

1. What does the word worship make you think of?
2. Why study worship?
3. Why is there so much discussion today about worship?
4. What do you consider to be worship?

Theology of Worship

I. Terms and Definitions

A. English: “Worship” (from the Anglo Saxon “weorthscipe”, later modified to “worthship”, and finally to “worship”

1. “Worth” + “ship” - To attribute worth
 - a. Worth - worthy
 - b. ship - a condition or quality
2. In Britain, the word is used as in: “His worship the Mayor”
3. In the United States, it is “His honor the mayor”
4. Hence, to worship God is to ascribe to God supreme worth
 - a. Psalm 96:7-8
 - b. Revelation 5:12

B. Greek:

1. Proskuneo - “To kiss toward, or to prostrate oneself, used of an act of homage or reverence
 - a. Use in reference to both divinity and towards humans
 - b. Acts 10:25 - fell at his feet and “worshipped” him (to Peter)
 - c. Acts 7:43 - made to “worship” them (idols)
 - d. Matthew 4:9 - fall down and “worship” me (Satan)
 - e. Revelation 22:8 - fell down to worship (an angel)
 - f. Revelation 7:11 - fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God. (Worship of God)
 - g. This is the most common word used for worship, (see I Corinthians 14:25, this is in the context of a public service) yet our practice does not reflect it.
2. Leitourgia - Used to refer to a religious service

- a. Use in the New Testament reflects Old Testament temple
- b. Luke 1:23 - priestly “service”; Hebrews 8:6 - “minister” of a better covenant
- c. Acts 13:2 - “ministering” to the Lord; Romans 15:16 - to be a “minister” of Christ Jesus; Romans 13:6 - “servants” of God
- d. Philippians 2:17 - “service” of your faith

3. Latreuo - To serve, to render religious service, to carry out cultic duties

- a. Used for both Pagan and Christian worship
- b. Matthew 4:10 - “serve” him only

4. Threskia - Religious Service, external ritual, religion

- a. Colossians 2:18 - “worship” of angels
- b. James 1:26-27 - “religious” and “religion”. (Note: This is the only place where this word is used in a Christian context in the New Testament)

5. Sebomai - To worship, to revere, stressing the feeling of awe or devotion

- a. Acts 19:27 - “worship”
- b. Romans 1:25 - “worshipped the creature rather than the creator”
- c. Matthew 15:9 - Vain worship

6. Eusebia - Devotion, to act piously towards

Acts 17:23 - what you “worship” in ignorance...

C. Hebrew:

1. Shachah - To worship, prostrate oneself, bow down

- a. Used more than 170 times in the Old testament
- b. It is used of prostrating oneself before a person: Genesis 18:2; I Samuel 24:8; Ruth 2:10; Genesis 37:5, 9-10

- c. It is also used of prostrating oneself before God: I Samuel 15:25; Jeremiah 7:2; Exodus 34:8
- 2. Sarat - To serve, minister
 - a. This word is usually restricted to the activities of the priests and Levites
 - b. I Samuel 2:11; 3:1; Ezekiel 20:32; 44:12; Deuteronomy 10:8; Exodus 29:30
- 3. Abad - To serve, work, enslave
 - a. Synonym for Sarat at times
 - b. Exodus 3:12; Deuteronomy 6:13; 11:13; Psalm 100:2; 72:11
- 4. Abahah - Noun form of Abad meaning - Work, service, service connected with religious duties
 - a. Translated in LXX by leitourgia, doulia, ergon, ergasia
 - b. Joshua 22:27 - "...that we might do the service of the Lord"
 - c. Numbers 3:7 - "...to do the service of the Tabernacle"
 - d. 2 Chronicles 35:16 - "all the service of the Lord"
 - e. NOTE: Levites sang, played instruments, were scribes and reporters, and door keepers (see 2 Chronicles 34:13; 8:14; 1 Chronicles 28:13) These were considered worship.

D. Is all of life worship?

- 1. Proskuneo - To prostrate oneself & Latreuo - To Serve ---- Both of these are two basic types of worship. They overlap but are not one and the same.
- 2. Note the following uses
 - a. Luke 2:37 - Latreuo
 - b. Matthew 2:2 - The wise men came to "proskuneo"

- c. Matthew 4:9 - “Proskuneo”, Satan didn’t have in mind a life of service, but that Jesus would do this one act of worship
- 3. Proskuneo has a beginning, an end, and is specific
- 4. While all of life is Latreuo, not all of life is Proskuneo

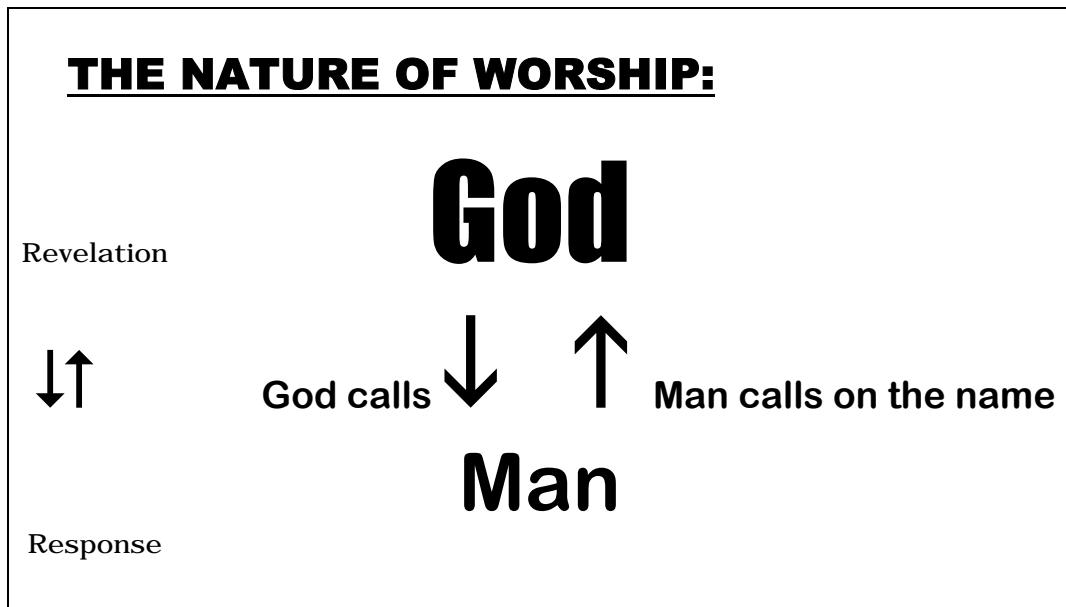
II. The necessity of the Old Testament in Understanding Worship

- A. There is little said about a “theology” of worship in the New Testament
 - 1. Most of what is written about worship in the New Testament are problems with worship
 - 2. The Bible of the early church would have been the Old Testament
 - 3. Most Christians had an Old Testament background for worship and would have likely studied worship in their Bible they had, the Old Testament
- B. Much of the New Testament system is foreshadowed in the Old.
 - 1. Concept of Redemption
 - 2. Passover
 - 3. System of Atonement
 - 4. The Tabernacle
 - 5. The Sabbath Rest
 - 6. 12 Tribes
- C. It follows that if we can learn something of the New Testament system from the “shadows” of the Old Testament system, we can learn something about worship in the Old Testament for us today.

III. Some Principles of Worship

- A. “Calling on the name of the Lord” - what does it mean? (examples of usage below)
 - 1. Genesis 4:26 - What does it mean?

2. Genesis 12:8
3. Deuteronomy 4:7; Psalm 105:1; Psalm 116:17
4. Isaiah 55:5-6; Joel 2:32; (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:12-13)
5. Acts 22:16
6. I Corinthians 1:2
7. Principle:
 - a. “Calling” is a standard Old Testament phrase used in the New
 - b. It is used with a connotation for worship, prayer, confession, salvation, etc.
 - c. Those who have been called by the Lord (see Deuteronomy 28:10 & 2 Chronicles 7:14) call upon the name of the Lord:



Worship is an “appropriate response” to God

B. How to Call on the name of the Lord - The nature of God determines how he is to be worshipped and served and why he is to be worshipped as well. This is true of even Pagan religions.

1. Holiness
 - a. Pertaining to God

- 1) I Samuel 2:2
- 2) Revelation 15:4
- 3) Isaiah 6:1-4
- 4) Revelation 4:1-11
- 5) Isaiah 55:8-9

b. Pertaining to His People

- 1) Exodus 19:5-6
- 2) Leviticus 20:7
- 3) I Peter 2:9-10

c. Reaction to God's Holiness

- 1) To Be _____, because God is _____.
- 2) Psalms 96:9
- 3) Job 38:1-3; 40:1-9; 42:1-6
- 4) Exodus 19:17-25; 20:18-21
- 5) Isaiah 6:5-8
- 6) Deuteronomy 7:1-6
- 7) I Peter 1:13-17

d. Holiness and Obedience

- 1) Leviticus 19:2 - We are to be Holy and treat Him as Holy
- 2) In the acts of worship
 - a) Genesis 4:3-4; Hebrews 11:4 - Faithful Obedience
 - b) Exodus 20:4-5; 32:7-14 - "Behold, YHWH who brought ..."
 - c) 2 Samuel 6:3-7; I Chronicles 15:11-16 - Do it

God's way

- d) I Samuel 10:8; 13:8-14; 15:22-23 - Obedience is the key

3) In daily life

- a) Jeremiah 7:21-23
- b) Amos 2:6-8; 4:4-5; 5:21-24
- c) Isaiah 1:11- 17
- d) Micah 6:6-8
- e) Romans 12:1-2

2. God is the Living God

- a. Hebrews 9:14
- b. Genesis 2:7
- c. The living God gave “life” to his creatures who in turn worship Him

3. God is light (Metaphor for pure and holy)

- a. I John 1:5-7
- b. Our lives and worship should be pure and holy

4. God is All Knowing

- a. Psalm 139:1-16
- b. Luke 12:7

5. God is one

- a. Deuteronomy 4:24, 31, 35
- b. Deuteronomy 5:7; 6:4
- c. Exodus 20:5; Isaiah 48:11

c. We worship one God because there is no other

6. God is the Creator

a. Habbakuk 2:18-19

b. Jeremiah 9:23-24

c. Psalm 148

d. Ephesians 5:19

7. God is omnipotent

Colossians 2:13-15

8. God is Spirit

a. John 4:20-24

b. Our worship is spiritual and sincere

9. God is Love

a. I John 4:8-11

b. Matthew 22:37-39

10. God is Transcendent

Isaiah 55:8-9

11. God is Near

Acts 17:27; John 1:14

C. Worship requires an understanding of the Human condition

a. Isaiah 59:1-2

b. Acts 17:22-31

c. Romans 3:9-10, 23

d. Ephesians 2:18-19 - God's part and Our part

e. Titus 2:11-12 - Can only come through genuineness

D. The works of God are reasons to worship God

- a. God the Creator (Psalm 102:25-26)
- b. God the Deliverer (Exodus 15:1-2)
- c. God the Redeemer (Psalm 130:7)
- d. God the Provider (Genesis 22:8; Acts 14:15-17)
- e. The Son God gave (Romans 3:24-26)

E. Attitudes necessary for Worship

1. Hebrews 12:25-29
2. Psalm 115:11; Psalm 5:7 (see also Proverbs 1:7 and Ecclesiastes 12:13)
3. Psalm 51:16-17; Luke 18:9ff
4. Psalm 32:1-5
5. Luke 18:9-14
6. Psalm 100

F. New Testament Distinctive: “In Christ” worship

1. John 14:6, 13-14
2. I Timothy 2:5
3. Ephesians 2:18
4. Colossians 3:17
5. I John 2:1

G. Worship in the Spirit

1. I Corinthians 12:13
2. Romans 8:26ff

3. Ephesians 5:18-19

H. All men are responsible to worship God

1. Acts 17:29-30

2. Romans 1:18-23

I. Maybe the Reason we have difficulty with worship is that we have not understood our God.

1. Tension between the God that we awe and reverence and A God who is near and our friend. Maybe we need to restore some of the mystery of worship

2. Question is not: How should I worship? That is the wrong question

3. The question is: How would God have me approach Him?

IV. Worship the God does not want - We need to be aware that not everything man does, even if he calls it worship, is accepted by God. Worship is not whatever you want it to be.

A. Outward Show

1. Micah 6:6-8

2. Jeremiah 7:4-8

3. Isaiah 29:13

4. Matthew 6:1

B. Ignorant Worship

Acts 17:22-23 - It may be sincere, but without knowledge (see Romans 10:2-3)

C. Hypocritical Worship (Note: This was the word in Bible times used for actors in a play) Matthew 5:20-24

D. Vain (Useless) Worship

Matthew 15:1-11 - It is void of substance and sincerity

E. "Will" worship - One doing what he wants for worship according to men

Colossians 2:18-23

V. Four Erroneous Views of Worship

A. The External Mechanical Interpretation

- Worship as an external exercise
- Done for the benefit of the people who do it
- Just the doing of certain acts

B. The Individualistic Interpretation

- Worship as strictly private religious devotion
- Consequence of this - Worshipping at the Lake

C. An Emotional Uplift

- The purpose of worship is to feel good
- The purpose of worship is to meet our needs

D. Performance Interpretation

- Worship as entertainment

VI. Results of Worship

A. Man meets his purpose

1. Isaiah 43:6-7
2. Ephesians 1:12
3. Acts 22:16
4. Man is to delight in God
 - a. Psalms 27:4
 - b. Psalm 16:11
 - c. Psalm 73:25

d. Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 10

e. Luke 24:52-53

B. God Delights in Us

1. Genesis 1:31

2. Isaiah 62:3-5

3. Zephaniah 3:17

C. We draw near to God under the New Covenant

1. Under the Old Covenant, most of the people did not go into the temple

Hebrews 9:1-7 - Only the High Priest could go into the inner room and only once a year

2. Under the New Covenant

a. Hebrews 10:19-22

b. Hebrews 12:18-24

c. Hebrews 12:28-29

D. God Draws near to us

1. James 4:8

2. 2 Chronicles 5:13-14

3. Psalm 22:3

E. God Ministers to Us

1. I Corinthians 14:26

2. Hebrews 10:24-25

3. I Peter 2:5

4. Hebrews 4:16

5. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Transformation? I John 3:2; Hebrews 12:2; Luke

24:32)

F. The Lord's Enemies Flee

2 Chronicles 20:21-22

G. Unbelievers know they are in God's presence

1. I Cor 14:22-25
2. Evangelism is not a primary purpose of worship
3. The purpose is to understand what is going on

VII. The continuance of worship

- A. Ephesians 5:15-20 - It is wise, making the most of your time --- worship
- B. Revelation 4:8-11; 5:11-14 - It is an activity of those already in Heaven
- C. Worship has eternal value to the soul.

VIII. Elements of Worship

- A. Praise - Exaltation of God
- B. Thanksgiving - Thanks given to God
- C. Remembrance - Remembrance of God and his gracious acts & his justice
- D. Sacrifice - Giving to God
- E. Confession - Confession of sins
- F. Requests - Requests for God's grace and protection

IX. Expressions of Worship ("Avenues of Worship")

- A. Prayer
- B. Singing
- C. Lord's Supper
- D. Giving

E. Preaching

X. Worship Posture

- A. Bowing (Exodus 12:27; Revelation 1:17-18)
- B. Raised Hands (Nehemiah 8:6; I Timothy 2:8)
- C. Dancing (Exodus 15:20; 2 Samuel 6:12-23)