

Rediscovering Worship

Three Foundational Truths

*“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
Psalm 29:2*

Defining Worship

- “Worship is any essential expression of service rendered unto God by a soul who loves and extols Him for who He is.” – John MacArthur
- “Worship is a spiritual response to God as a result of understanding biblical truth about God.” – Scott Aniol
- “What is worship? Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Art in Heaven.” – A.W. Tozer

Truth #1 – Worship is a Key Theme of the Bible

- In Genesis: mankind fell by not properly worshiping God through obedience, Abel properly worshiped when Cain did not, Noah’s family worshipped when no others would, and Abraham was called to worship in a strange land.
- In Exodus: the Israelites were redeemed from bondage to worship God and the proper means of worship was dictated to them.
- From Leviticus through Deuteronomy: the proper means of worship is restated, expanded, and encouraged.
- From Joshua through Judges: Israel falls from worshiping God to spiritual confusion.
- In Ruth: the faithfulness of a Moabite woman who turned to worship God leads to the Golden Age of Israel under David.
- From I Samuel to II Chronicles: the practical display of God’s blessing upon people that truly worshiped Him, the display of His displeasure on those that did not, the extreme measures that would be taken to restore His people to worship Him as they ought to.
- From Ezra to Esther: the restoration of worship after the purging of Captivity.
- In Job: the example of consistent worship, in good times or bad.
- In Psalms: the greatest expressions of worship to guide our own.
- From Proverbs through Song of Solomon: examples of practical worship by honoring God in our daily lives.

- From Isaiah to Malachi: the messages of the prophets to encourage true worship of God, future events revealed that will bring all men to kneel before God.
- From Matthew to John: the revelation of God through His Son which draws men to worship, the redemption of men through Christ that allows for true worship.
- In Acts: how worship of Christ spread from the Jews to the world, the heathen peoples repent and worship as never before.
- From Romans to Jude: the practical and doctrinal basis for worship in the New Testament age.
- In Revelation: how all history culminates in God's endless worship.

Truth #2 – God Has Revealed How to Worship Him

- God has not let us to wonder how He is to be worshipped.
 - For examples, see the decree in Eden (Genesis 2:15-17), the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), and the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
- From Genesis to Revelation are commands and principles that regulate how God is to be worshiped.
- This will be a major focus of our study that will be developed as we continue.

Truth #3 – God Can and Will Reject Improper Worship

- The history of the Bible shows that God demands worship on His terms and that He judges those that fail to worship so. Examples:
 - Cain's worship through an improper sacrifice was rejected – Genesis 4
 - Israel's worship through a golden calf was rejected – Exodus 32 (note vs. 5)
 - Nadab and Abihu's worship through self-appointed means was rejected – Leviticus 10
 - Saul's worship through disobedience was rejected – I Samuel 13
 - Note – this is not limited to the Old Testament
 - Simon the sorcerer's worship through greed was rejected – Acts 8:9-24
 - The rich young ruler's worship through self-righteousness was rejected – Mark 10:17-25
- There at least four categories of improper worship:
 - Worship of false gods – Exodus 34:14, Isaiah 42:8
 - Worship of God in a forbidden manner – Deuteronomy 4:14-19
 - Worship of God in a selfish manner – James 4:3
 - Worship of God with the wrong attitude – Amos 5:21-24, Hosea 6:4-6, Isaiah 1:11-15, Matthew 15:8-9