

Reference: VARIOUS

Church: GRACE

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Worship - Introduction

Purpose: To begin to open up the subject. To consider what worship is and why we are called to worship God.

1. Introduction

Beginning a new series on the subject of worship.

Follows on from one on the church

Much to be said on this topic

Live in days when worship has become a free-for-all

“If it feels good, do it and God will be pleased”

Is this really true?

Does God really not care how we worship Him?

After all we have seen on the church –

All that God tells us about her in the Word

This could never be so!

We are not free to make up our own rules for worship

We are to trace out the Biblical pattern and do it.

Will introduce the subject today and develop it in future weeks

2. What is worship?

bow, bow down, obeisance, reverence, fall down, stoop, crouch, to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence. Among the Orientals, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence. In the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication

Worth-ship

Worship incorporates the fear of God

3. Who is to be worshipped?

Only the One True God is to be worshipped as we have described

Exodus 20:3-6 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:13 You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

Revelation 4:11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Revelation 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he *said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

4. Who may worship?

God does not receive the worship of the wicked

Only those who are clean may enter His presence

Genesis 4:4-5 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

Psalms 66:16-20 Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. 17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. 18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19 but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. 20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

5. Where do we worship?

5.1. *The whole life as an act of worship*

This is inevitable given what worship is

Our whole life must be conditioned by a desire to acknowledge Him as worthy

Can't break His commands and do it as worship!

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

5.2. Private Worship

There are more specific occasions for worship

We are to set aside time to worship Him privately

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Luke 6:12-13 It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

5.3. Family Worship

We are clearly to worship Him in family groups

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

5.4. Public Worship

Have seen the church gathering in the series on the church

Met in homes and sometimes in larger assemblies

Will spend more time on what they did in coming weeks

6. How do we worship?

Are we free to choose to worship God as we please?

Leviticus 10:1-3 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. 2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.'" aron remained silent.

If God has shown us how He will be worshipped, we are not free

We must worship Him only as He directs.

7. Should worship always be enjoyable?

The answer must be NO!

If God shows us sin and convicts us as we worship

If God chastens us as we hear His word

These things are not pleasant to us

Also, if God reveals Himself to us in glory, it is not always enjoyable – though it is always good

Daniel 8:26-27 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."

27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

Isaiah 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Job 1:20-22 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." 22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

8. Conclusions

We have laid a foundation for the study

We have seen the what, the why, where, how and the who

Will develop all of these themes further as we progress

Next time we will look at some fundamental principles of true worship

Then we will see what God has set forth in His Word as the elements of Biblical Public worship