

WORSHIP - Study 1

INTRODUCTION:

Worship has been rightly called "the Christian's highest occupation." God, by His very nature, calls forth worship and praise: if his people will not praise Him, then "the stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40). Indeed, Scripture tells us that the whole purpose of our election is "for the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:14).

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What do we learn about worship in the following passages:

"God Is a Spirit: and They That Worship Him must Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." John 4:24 (KJV)

"Give unto the Lord the Glory Due unto His Name: Bring an Offering, and Come Before Him: Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness." I Chronicles 16:29 (KJV)
"Do Not Worship Any Other God, for the Lord, Whose Name Is Jealous, Is a Jealous God." Exodus 34:14 (NIV)

"Exalt the Lord Our God, and Worship at His Footstool He Is Holy" Psalm 99:5 (NIV)

"O Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down; Let Us Kneel Before the Lord Our Maker. For He Is Our God; and We Are the People of His Pasture, and the Sheep of His Hand." Psalm 95:6-7 (KJV)

But the King (David) Replied to Araunah, 'No, I Insist on Paying You For It. I Will Not Sacrifice to the Lord My God Burnt Offerings That Cost Me Nothing Samuel 24:24 (NIV)

"But the Lord Is in His Holy Temple: Let All the Earth Keep Silence Before Him." Habakkuk 2:20 (KJV)

II. Do the following verse study on any two of the above verses:

- a. List two key words in the verse and define them

- b. Rewrite the verse in your own words;

- c. How does the truth of this verse apply to my life today?

III. memorize any one of the verses listed above.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Spend at least 10 minutes worshipping the Lord in prayer. Use the words and thoughts of your memory verse (or any of the other verses above) to express your praise to God.

WORSHIP: *THE GOD WHO IS WORTHY* - STUDY 2

INTRODUCTION:

Any attempt to compose the perfect definition of worship is bound to fail. To understand worship, one must rather experience than describe it. Yet, a good definition may help lead us to a fuller experience. Worship, therefore, may be said to occur when human beings respond to God's self revelation by acknowledging, in thought, word or action, the worthiness of God. In the present study we will consider the "who" of worship; that is, the identity and attributes of The Worthy One.

I. The Scripture tells us that it is God the Father who seeks worshippers (John 4:23).

- 1) What does the title "Father" suggest about our attitude toward God in worship?

- 2) What attributes of worth are given to the Father in the titles found in the following verses?
 - a) John 17:11
 - b) John 17:25
 - c) Ephesians 1:17
 - d) II Corinthians 1:3

- 3) Describe or explain each of these divine attributes.

Spend five minutes in prayer, worshipping the Father for who He is.

II. Scripture reveals that only one other person besides the Father is rightfully worshipped.

- 4) With whom only does the Father share worship? (Rev.5:13, Hebrews 1:6)

- 5) What praiseworthy attributes of the Lord Jesus are found in the following verses?
 - a) Colossians 2:9
 - b) Isaiah 9:6
 - c) Hebrews 13:8
 - d) Hebrews 13:20

**Spend five minutes in prayer worshipping the Son for who He is.*

III. Exodus 34:14 makes it very clear that it is God alone who we must worship: "*Do not worship any other god, for the Lord ... is a jealous God*"

6) What other things (apart from God) can we come to "worship", thus crowding out the exclusive and whole hearted worship of God?

- a) Luke 16:13
- b) II Timothy 3:4
- c) Philippians 3:19
- d) Acts 10:25 26
- e) Habakkuk 1:11.

7) What attitudes and actions on our part would indicate that these other things are becoming objects of worship?

Spend 5 minutes in prayer, confessing to God that He alone is worthy of worship, and putting aside in your heart everything that vies with God for worship.

WORSHIP: *THE GOD WHO ACTS* - STUDY 3

Scripture: Read Revelation 4:6 5:14; 11:15 19

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous study we looked at the object of our worship and saw that God; because of who He is; is worthy of worship. But He is also to be worshipped for His mighty and marvellous deeds. The last book in the Bible is well named the Revelation because it reveals how God exercises His mighty power in our world. Not surprisingly, this book contains many hymns of praise. So in the present study we wish to particularly examine three selections from its worship hymnal: Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, and 11:17-18. These three songs of praise are inspired by God's activity, past (in creation), present (in the salvation that is offered as a result of Christ's death on the Cross) and future (in the judgement and final manifestation of God's rule). God's title found in Revelation 1:4 and 8 is significant in this regard, for he is designated as the one "who is, and who was, and who is to come."

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

I. THE ONE WHO WAS

- 1) For what powerful action(s) is God praised in Revelation 4:11?

- 2) What do the words "and have their being" (NIV) suggest about God's activity in Creation? (See also Colossians 1:16-17, esp. v.17)

- 3) Read Psalm 139:13-16. What wonder of God's creation do these verses bring out?

.... AND WHO IS

- 4) According to Revelation 5:9-10, what one particular praiseworthy deed did the Lamb do? What did this deed accomplish?

- 5) What difference does it make to our worship that He has made us "kings and priests" (or, literally, "a kingdom and priests")?

- 6) How in actual practice might one "give" glory and honour etc. to God and to the Lamb (as in Rev. 4:11 and 5:12)?

.... AND WHO IS TO COME.

7) For what activity is the Lord worshipped in Rev. 11:15-18?
When does this happen?

8) What specific things must God do to transform the kingdom of the world into his own kingdom?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

1. Meditate on the title for God, "the one who is, and who was, and who is to come." Praise Him for His actions past, present and future.

2. List the things God has been doing for you or accomplishing in you recently. Praise Him with thanksgiving for these things.

WORSHIP: THE HOLY SPIRIT - Study 4

Scripture: Romans 8:9-17,26-27; John 16:13-14; I Corinthians 14:26-40

INTRODUCTION:

In a previous study (#2) we considered the place of the Father and the Son in worship; now we will consider the involvement of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we could not worship. What does the Spirit do to enable us to worship, and worship properly? What characteristics will Spirit led worship display?

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

I. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

1) Consider Romans 8:9-17. List the things the Spirit does for us in these verses. How might each of these things the Spirit does help us specifically in worship?

2) Read Romans 8:26-27. What is the weakness mentioned in verse 26? How might this weakness reveal itself in our attempts at worship? (See also Psalm 106:2 and Psalm 40:5)

3) The word translated "help" in Romans 8:26 is literally "to help together with." What ingredient do we supply in Spirit assisted prayer/worship? What ingredient does the Holy Spirit supply?

4) According to John 6:13-14, what is the ultimate purpose of the Spirit's action? How does He accomplish this purpose in worship? (see I Corinthians 12:3)

5) How then; do we know when worship is truly being led by the Holy Spirit?

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRIT LED WORSHIP (I Corinthians 14:26-40)

6) Describe the type of meeting pictured in I Cor. 14:33. What contribution to worship do you think is made by each of the items listed?

7) What do we learn about the nature of God in I Cor. 14:33? How should this aspect of God's nature affect the way we worship?

8) In I Cor. 14:39-40, Paul sums up the overall concern of this passage. According to these two verses, what two extremes does Paul want us to avoid in our worship?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Spend some time confessing to the Lord your weakness and inability to worship him as he deserves to be worshipped. Ask him to send his Spirit afresh to help us worship as we ought.

WORSHIP: LIVING SACRIFICES - Study 5

INTRODUCTION:

Worship is related to life.

In the Old Testament, the children of Israel worshiped God by presenting animal sacrifices and cereal offerings. These things, if they were spotless or from the firstfruits of the harvest, were acceptable pleasing to God. When the Lord Jesus appeared he became the one perfect, acceptable sacrifice, fulfilling (and thus doing away with) the sacrifices and offerings of the Old Testament. But we today can still offer up sacrifices pleasing to God. Through Christ, our good deeds and generosity; indeed our whole lives; can become "spiritual" sacrifices, acts of worship, pleasing to God. We must not think true worship is limited to saying prayers and singing hymns on Sunday morning; only by offering up our very lives to him can we even come near to ascribing to him his proper "worth".

Memory verse: 1 Peter 2:5

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Hebrews 13:15-16. What two different kinds of "sacrifices" are spoken of in these two verses? What overall picture of worship do these two verses together give us?
2. What does it mean that these sacrifices are to be offered "through Jesus?" (See also 1 Peter 2:5)
3. Read Romans 12:1. What act of worship is urged upon us here? What is to motivate us to do this act of worship?
4. When Paul encourages us to offer ourselves wholly to God in Romans 12:1 why do you think he tells us to offer our "bodies"? (See also Romans 6:13)... How, practically, do we offer our bodies to God?
5. What is the significance of the word "living"? ... of "holy"? ... of "pleasing"? (Romans 12:1)

6. In II Timothy 4:6, the Apostle Paul, using sacrificial language, speaks of himself being "poured out as a drink offering." How, specifically, was Paul "poured out?"

7. How is the word "sacrifice" especially appropriate to describe the life of a Christian?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Spend some time in prayer offering yourself to God. Offer your time, talents, and resources; offer your mind, heart, soul and strength; offer your hands and feet, your eyes and ears, your tongue to be used for His glory.