

August 12, 2020

Worship – Overview of Study & Introduction

I. Overview

A. Worship is an individual and community activity which is central in our individual and the Church's relationship with God. Worship is a relational act that is an expression of our love for God. This study is a survey of worship in the Bible, Genesis through Revelation. Through this study we shall come to an understanding of the importance of worship and the different parts of the worship service. By learning the, "what" and "why" of worship, it is hoped that it will deepen your worship experience, which in turn will deepen your relationship with Christ.

B. Structure of the Study

1. August 12 – Overview of Study & Introduction.
2. August 19 – Foundational: Genesis
3. August 26 - Developmental Part I: Exodus, Leviticus,
4. September 2 – Developmental Part II: Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Kings, Psalms, & Isaiah
5. September 9 – No Bible Study - Break
6. September 16 – Institutionalization Part I: Ezra, and Nehemiah
7. September 23 – Institutionalization Part II: Haggai and Zechariah
8. September 30 - Cultural Preservation Part I: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
9. October 7 – Cultural Preservation Part II: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
10. October 14 – Early Christian Worship: Acts and 1 Corinthians
11. October 21 – Worship in Spirit and Truth: Revelation
12. October 28 – Putting it all together

II. Worship

A. Origins of the word

1. Derived from the Saxon word "worthship" which meant to have an attitude of homage or honor towards someone.
2. English used the Saxon term to translate into one word the different Hebrew words which were all used to connote worship – here are a few:
 - a. שָׁגַד (se-geed) to bow down, prostrate, in homage
Daniel 3:28
 - b. הָלַל (Hāl-lal) – to praise and celebrate (derived from the root that means to shine)
Psalm 33:1 (note that Psalm 33:2 is built from the same word, but it means praise with musical instruments).
 - c. יָדָה (Yaw daw) – hands raised to God Psalm 7:17
 - d. תָּוַדָה (To-daw) – Offering/sacrifice of thanks Psalm 69:30-31
 - e. שָׁבַח (Shaw bakh) – Commend, glorify, triumphant praise - Psalm 63: 1-5

3. English used the Saxon term to translate into one word the Greek words for worship that are both a noun and verb.
 - a. ἐκκλησία (ek-klay-see'-ah) Noun - to call out from for the purpose of worship (Church)
Matthew 16:18
 - b. Σέβομαι (seb'-om-ahee) Verb – to pay homage, reverence, John 4:21-23
 - c. Προσκυνέω (pros-koo-neh'-o) Verb - to kiss the ground when prostrating, to do reverence
Matthew 2:11
4. The word “Worship” is the act of revering and paying homage to God intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Even as a noun worship implies action.

B. Definition:

1. Secular: “show reverence and adoration for (a deity); honor with religious rites” *Oxford English Dictionary*.
2. Christian: A communal encounter with “the living God, through the risen Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.” The United Methodist Book of Worship, page 13.

C. The Difference of Christian Worship from Worship in other Religions

1. All other religions there is a no personal connection with the deity.
2. All other religions you either empty yourself completely or you seek to appease the deity – Christianity you are to engage the whole person.

D. Scriptural Principles of Worship

1. Worship is central – not just one thing you do – it is the essential thing
2. God’s Word is primary – it is an encounter with God
3. Involves the whole congregation actively
4. Relevant and inclusive
5. Organized but flexible to the Holy Spirit