

3/3/19\*

**The Believer And Worship**  
**Selected Scrip. 1Chron.**

The reign of David in First Chronicles centers on the reign of David and a good space has been given to the preparations for the building and organization of the temple service for the worship of God!

\* Six chapter are given in great detail. 1Chron. 22-27

Worship is not based on methodology, instruments or on one's emotional experience, but on our response to God from our hearts in gratitude, admiration and the glorification of God!

\* "Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was: Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king." 1Chron. 25:1-2

We want to look at the material in First Chronicles regarding the preparations to build the temple that centers on the worship of God as taught in the entire Bible by asking three questions.

- I. The simple question, what is worship?
- II. The sound question, why are we to worship God?

III. The specific question, how are we to worship God?

I. **The simple question, what is worship?**

- A. The origin of our English word "worship" is derived from a Saxon word.
  1. The word "weorthscip", is said to mean worthship, which describes the worth of the person or thing receiving special honor.
    - \* We treat a person or object as unique and different from a common things.
  2. The word worship in it's most basic meaning has the idea of dedication and devotion to a person or thing that is valued more than self.
  3. The act and practice of worship is related to various things in Scripture, to God, creation, false gods, but belongs to God alone.
    - \* "Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, **worship** the LORD in the beauty of holiness!" 1Chron. 16:29
- B. The act of worship is uniquely ascribed to God alone in both the Old and New Testaments.
  1. The prophet Moses received the ten words on Mount Sinai, the very first and second commandments dealt with worship. Ex. 20:3, 5
    - a. "You shall have no other gods before Me." vs. 3

- b. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.” vs. 4-5a  
\* This is the most basic understanding!
  - 3. The Lord Jesus affirmed worship belongs and is to be given uniquely to God when He refused to worship Satan. Lk. 4:8  
\* “And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall **worship** the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”
    - a. Worship of anything apart from God is idolatry, worship belongs only to God!
    - b. A person can worship their intellect, occupation, money, their wife, husband or children or a Pastor, etc.
    - c. The believer is to worship no one except God and ascribe worth to Christ, for He is the One who makes all things worth while and valuable!
    - d. Jesus is the One Who make it possible to worship God the Father and Him!
- C. The act of worship in the Old Testament is discriptive.
1. The most common word is “shahah” that means to depress, bow down or prostrate.

- a. This is one of the key postures of man throughout the Scriptures.
  - b. This is the clear image of those who do not know God bow down prostrated to an image or idol in the Bible and life.
  - c. Those who know God like Israel believed the Lord had visited them and looked on their affliction; therefore they bowed their heads and worshipped. Ex. 4:31
2. There is the word “ebed” meaning servant, the idea is one of service of every kind, acts of adoration as well as doing chores.
    - a. God said to Moses, “You shall serve God on this mountain”. Ex. 3:12d
      - 1) With worship comes service.
      - 2) You extend yourself.
    - b. So up to this point we can see that worship is not confined to singing or lifting your hands.
    - c. Because these are external visible things that can be taking place, but no real worship taking place.
- D. The act of worship in the New Testament is also discriptive.
1. The most common word for worship is “proskuneo”, it means to kiss the hand or the ground, once again the idea is prostration and adoration and worth.

- a. The word is used of God, Christ, man, demons and idols.
  - b. The witness of John is that the angels and elders around the throne fell on their faces and worshipped God. Rev. 7:11  
\* This word appears the most numerous in Revelation, twenty-four times.
2. There are other words that mean service, worship, honor and religious homage.
- a. For instance Paul says, “I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies. . . which is your reasonable “service”, the word is “*letreia*”. Rom 12:1
  - b. The word “*letreia*”, means any service and worship of God according to word.
3. The clear understanding is a very obvious, the unifying idea and relation between worship and service in the Scriptures.
- a. They are inseparable, in fact one!
  - b. If you worship God, then you will be serving God.
  - c. If you are not serving God, then you are missing the true meaning of worship for it is the outgrowth of your love for God.

### Illustration

When queen Victoria had just ascended her throne she went, as is custom of royalty, to hear “The Messiah” rendered. She had been instructed as to her conduct by those who knew, and was told that she must not rise when the others stood at the singing of the Hallelujah

Chorus. When that magnificent chorus was being sung and the singers were shouting “Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,” she sat down with great difficulty.

It seemed as if she would rise in spite of the custom of Kings and Queens, but finally when they came to that part of the chorus where with a shout they proclaim him King of Kings suddenly the young queen rose and stood with bowed head, as if she would take her crown from off her and cast it at His feet. # 7587

***This is what worship is according to the scriptures!***

## **II. The sound question, why are we to worship God?**

- A. The reason we are to worship God is because God is our Creator.
  - \* “The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and **worship** Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: You are worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honor and power: for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” Rev. 4:10-11
- 1. The Scriptures clearly reveal and command that we were created to worship God.
  - a. Fallen man has a difficult time with this concluding God is narcissistic and even accuses Him of not being fair or loving.

- b. It seems foolish, if you were design for the worship of God and you rebel against that, you are adding to your own hurt.
  - c. Every tool is designed with a purpose and if you use it as such, it will be effective and efficient, so it is rational that God has designed me for Him.
2. The Scriptures also reveals worship is the theme in heaven and we are to recognize it.
- a. John tells us the elders are prostrated before the throne.
  - b. Get used to it, it is the first thing you and I will see in heaven.
    - \* “And one (Seraphim) cried to another and said: “**Holy, holy, holy** is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” Is. 6:3
- B.** The reason we are to worship God is because God redeemed us and made us a kingdom of kings and priests.
- \* “And they **sang** a **new** song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Rev. 5:9-10

1. The only people that can meet the description and sing the song is the church of Jesus Christ.
- a. The church is before the throne having been raptured prior to the Tribulation period worshipping Jesus in song.
    - \* The caution is that worship is far more than just singing at church!
  - b. Jesus has made us a kingdom of priests and kings, having taken us from being lost to being saved.
    - 1) Chronicles says, “four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, “which I made,” said David, “for giving praise.” 1Chron. 23:5
    - 2) Chronicles again says, “So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the **songs** of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.” 1Chron. 25:7
2. The transformation has taken us from enemies to sons and daughters of God.
- a. Regardless of how moral you were prior to Christ you were an enemy of God.
  - b. Jesus died for the ungodly, that is the reason why Jesus can ask of us to forgive our enemies and those who have hurt us personally and profoundly.

- c. God never asks me to do anything that He has not done first, then He enables me, as I deny myself.

C. The reason we are to worship God is because of God's goodness.

\* "I will worship Your holy temple, and praise Your name for your loving kindness and Your truth: For You have magnified your word above all Your name." Ps. 138:2

1. For the forgiveness of our sins.
2. For the faithful provisions in our lives.
3. For the full protection as we depend on Him.
4. For so many other things.

D. The reason we are to worship God is because of God's marvelous works and wonders.

\* "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before you, For your judgments have been manifested." Rev. 15:3-4

1. His work of justification.
2. His work of redemption.
3. His work of reconciliation.
4. His work of regeneration.

5. God did for us what we could never do for ourselves and yet He never throws anything up in our face or pressures us.

6. God merely waits for our response.

\* The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord: Your faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. Ps. 89:5

### **Illustration**

Martin Luther claimed that, "To know God is to worship Him and that worship is not an optional extra for the godly person but an essential symptom or expression of that knowledge."

***These are the scriptural reasons why we are to worship God!***

### **III. The specific question, how are we to worship God?**

- A. The believer is to worship God in praise.

\* "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord". Ps. 150:6

1. The organization by David is to prepare for the worship of God and includes everyone.
  - a. The twenty-four orders of the Levites. 1Chron. 23:3-23
  - b. The description of their duties. 1Chron. 23:28-32
  - c. The courses of the priests. 1Chron. 24:1-19

- d. The families of the Levites. 1Chron. 24:20-31
  - e. The families and courses of the singers. 1Chron. 25:1-31
  - f. The twenty-four doorkeepers. 1Chron. 26:1-19
  - g. The various officers. 1Chron. 26:20-32
  - h. The Kings councilors. 1Chron. 27:32-34
  - i. The military and civil leaders. 1Chron. 27:1-32
  - j. “All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these **plans**.” 1Chron. 28:19
2. The words used in the Old Testament are numerous.
- a. There is the word “Halal” it means to acclaim, to boast, to glory in and there are a group of Psalms called Hallel Psalms, to express a deep satisfaction in exaltation of the acts and qualities of the one being praised. Ps. 113-118
  - b. The word “Yadah” means to praise, give thanks and to confess God’s goodness.
  - c. The word “Todah” focuses on the acknowledgment of God’s works and character often in contrast with human failure.
  - d. There is the word “Zamar” to sing praise and make music focusing on the use of instruments of music in praise to God.

- 1) Many Psalms were written for cornet, cymbals, harp, organ, timbrel and trumpet. Ps. 4, 9, 11 12, 22, 42, 45, 53, 60, 61, 62, 81
  - 2) Remember Satan, Lucifer, was the quire director in heaven prior to his fall. Ezk. 28:13
- e. The word “sabah” means to praise or commend, directed to God with rich adoration.
- 1) The instruments and music are amoral and too much has been said against them by legalism, the words are the important factor, not the kind of musical instruments!  
\* I can write good words or bad words with a pen, the pen is amoral!
  - 2) There are many musical instruments mention in Chronicles, harps, stringed **instruments**, and cymbals, trumpets.
  - 3) Doesn’t music make time go by faster and more enjoyable?
2. The words used in the New Testament are equally numerous.
- a. The word “aineo” that means to praise, found nine times in the New Testament.  
\* The angels appeared to the shepherds and the heavenly host appeared “*praising*” God saying, “Glory to God in the highest”. Lk. 2:13

- b. The word “ainos” is another form and found two times in the New Testament.  
\* “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise.”  
Matt. 21:16
- c. There is still another related form found “epainos” which means to applaud, found six times in the New Testament.
- 1) The master commended “epainos” the unjust steward. Lk. 16:8
    - a) Jesus used the parable to teach that the sons of the world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. We are to be faithful in the unrighteous money for eternal things.
    - b) When one is applauded, it means “well done”.
  - 2) The word appears another eleven times in different forms translated “praise”.
- d. The word “doxa” means glory, dignity and majesty, appear one-hundred-sixty-eight times in the New Testament.
- 1) There were ten lepers only one returned to give God “doxa”. Lk. 17:18
  - 2) Jesus said, “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” Lk. 21:27

- e. The word “humneo” means to hymn, celebrate in song and found four times in the New Testament.
- 1) Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God at midnight, the jailor hearing the words said, “What must I do to be saved.” Acts 16:25-30
  - 2) The cognate form is found in the following. Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16
    - a) “Speaking to one another in psalms and **hymns** and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph. 5:19-20
    - b) “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and **hymns** and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3:16
- B.** The believer is to worship God the Father in Spirit and truth. Jn. 4:24
1. Our Lord Jesus taught the woman of Samaria that only sons and daughters can worship the Father, **not** religious people.
    - a. She was stunned that Jesus spoke to her, being a Rabbi.

- b. Jesus went from Rabbi to the Savior of the world, the title was not given in Jerusalem, but Samaria.
  - \* When your children express the depth of their love for you, it is not comfortable nor awkward, but if someone else does that, it is awkward and uncomfortable!
- 2. Our Lord Jesus taught the woman of Samaria that worship is spiritual, not merely physical.
  - a. Not in Gerizim nor in Jerusalem, but in one's heart, the circumcision who worships God in the Spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, having no confidence in the flesh. Phil 3:3
  - b. The believer cries out by the Holy Spirit from our hearts, "Ababa Father". Gal. 4:6
    - \* Till the day my Dad died, I called him "Papi", "Daddy", I was 44 years old!
- 3. Jesus taught the woman of Samaria that worship is to be according to truth, God's revelation and no other.
  - a. God honors His word above His name. Ps. 138:2
    - 1) Nadab and Abiu offered strange fire to God in the first sacrificial worship, so were consumed by the fire. Lev. 10
    - 2) David attempted to bring the ark back to Jerusalem the wrong way, without proper worship and Uzzah die, when

- he did it the right way with the priests, sacrifice and worship, God honored it. 1Chron. 13, 15
  - 3) All things are to be decent and in order, as an expression of our worship, not bringing attention to self.
  - b. Paul told the Galatians that anyone who proclaims another gospel is to be damned.
    - \* If you go beyond the word of God, add to the word or take away from the word, you are in trouble!
- C. The believer is to worship God in his or her life.
- 1. Through physical posture we worship.
    - a. Solomon fell on his knees and lifted his hands to worship. 1Kings 8:22-23
    - b. We are to lift up holy hands without wrath and doubting. 1Tim. 2:8
      - 1) The idea being complete dependence, pureness of heart and worship.
      - 2) Posture varies through Scripture, but it should only be the outward expression of the inner reality.
  - 2. Through obedience to God's Word we worship.
    - a. Now we know that God hears not sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does His will, He hears him. Jn. 9:31

- b. Obedience is better than sacrifice...  
1Sam. 15:22c
- c. Obedience is one form of worship to God.
- 3. Through our private and quiet times we worship.
  - a. “Meditate within your heart on your bed and be still.” Ps. 4:4
  - b. “Be still and know that I am God.” Ps. 46:10
  - c. Be careful that you are not driven by emotionalism, yet you can express your emotions to God!
  - d. Learn to distinguish between the two!
- 4. Through our corporate worship.
  - a. Solomon worshipped in the temple and the glory filled it and all ran out. 2Chron. 5:11-14
  - b. They continued in the temple daily with one accord praising God. Acts 2:46-47
  - c. Peter, John and others gathered to pray for boldness and worship God. Acts 4:23-31
  - d. Remember the believer is to sing songs and hymns in his heart. Eph. 5:19-20;  
Col 3:16
    - 1) In Ephesians it is the result of the Holy Spirit in us.
    - 2) In Colossians it is the result of the word in us.

### **Illustration**

\* “**Praise** the LORD! **Praise** God in His sanctuary; **Praise** Him in His mighty firmament!  
2 **Praise** Him for His mighty acts; **Praise** Him according to His excellent greatness!  
3 **Praise** Him with the sound of the trumpet; **Praise** Him with the lute and harp!  
4 **Praise** Him with the timbrel and dance; **Praise** Him with stringed instruments and flutes!  
5 **Praise** Him with loud cymbals; **Praise** Him with clashing cymbals!  
6 Let everything that has breath **praise** the LORD. **Praise** the LORD!” Ps. 150:1-6

***This is how we are to worship God scripturally in our lives!***

### **IV. What have we learned about worship?**

- A. Worship is not confined or limited to what happens on Sunday morning as we worship in music.
  - 1. Some people think it is a fill in time to wait for the stragglers to walk in late.
  - 2. Others think it takes talented musicians to worship, rather than committed hearts.
- B. Worship is primarily a response to the revelation of God in our lives.
  - 1. For who He is, Creator.

2. For what He has done in redeeming me, Savior.
3. For what He promises, to keep me and provide for me.
  - a. Worship is not passive, a mood or feelings, but a response to God's initiation!
  - b. "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." Heb. 13:15

**C.** Worship consists of praise, prayer, adoration and thanksgiving to God in acknowledgment of His worth, with lifting hands, prostration of body and song.

1. Declaring our devotion to Him.
2. Declaring our dependency on Him.
3. Declaring our delight in Him.
  - \* Angels, elders and every creature in heaven and earth cry out, "You are worthy Lord to receive glory, honor and power." Rev. 4:11-13

**D.** Worship is spiritual and must be according to the truth of God's word from the heart.

1. God does not look on the outward appearance as man. 1Sam. 16:7
2. Corporately the church as living stones is being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices

acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pet. 2:5

- a. Everything according to His word for it is the standard for life and practice!
- b. Listen to Chronicles, "All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed **instruments**, and harps, for the service of the house of God."

1Chron. 25:6

**E.** The nation who believes and worships the God of the Bible has a great advantage.

1. The advantage of hindsight particularly in regards to history is that you are able to observe dates and events that were crucial in the outcome and future development of a nation and without any doubt the date line that marked this nations decline was the prohibition of prayer in school in the Engel versus Vitale, 1962.
2. Listen to the prayer that was offered. Almighty God, we acknowledge dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country.
3. Four individuals were asked to be blessed by God.
  - a. Us the students.
  - b. Their parents.
  - c. Their teachers.

- d. Their country, the U.S.A.  
 \* David Barton takes these four particulars and shows the effects on each of them in, America, To Pray Or Not To Pray.
4. Why would the authorities of the land deny and reject prayer in the public schools? Allow me to give you some possible reasons.
- Prayer is an acknowledgment that there is a God.
  - Prayer is communication with God.
  - Prayer is dependency on God.
  - Our nation under Constitutional Republic had in every state a requirement for those running for public office, the house or Senate, such as North Carolina Article XXXII, “No person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testament, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the state, shall be capable of holding any office, or place, or trust or profit in the civil department, within this state.”
5. In a humanistic system who prides itself on the abilities of man and the goodness of man, it has no place nor tolerance for God in its equation of education.
- The consequences of this prohibition has been social and national decay from 1962

rejecting prayer in school to now, being about to kill a baby after it is born under the law in New York.

\* “They sow the **wind**, And **reap** the whirlwind.” Hos. 8:7

- The outcome is clear and obvious, the school system is the fountainhead and the source of those of future society which would embrace and propagate the godless and valueless belief and philosophy of life, no prayer, no God!  
 \* Series, “America and God” 1995

### **Illustration**

Patrick Henry, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not on religions, but by Christians, not on religions but the gospel of Jesus Christ! For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.”

***These scriptural lessons on worship are important for our lives!***

### **Conclusion**

We have looked at the material in First Chronicles regarding the preparations to build the temple is centered on the worship of God as taught in the entire Bible, evident by asking these three questions.

- The simple question, what Is Worship?
- The sound question, why are we to worship God?

**III.** The specific question, how are we to worship God?