

# “Worship the Living God”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, March 31, 2019

**John 4:22-24 NKJV:** <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Religion presents a God to us that is impersonal, angry, condescending, condemning, behind all evil and bad events, and not relevant in our everyday lives. A God of duty only, and not relational. Therefore, worship becomes a song service, routine, monotonous, structured with no guidance from the Holy Spirit, and empty with no life, excitement, or joy.

A church can have the best of singers and musicians, but without the anointing and the manifestation of the Living God, it is only mechanical, fleshly, and dead. It can still stir up your flesh but never touch your spirit.

Even if you have been saved for a long time, you have to be intentional about your worship or you'll get into a rut of duty and tradition. You can get so familiar with what happens at church every Sunday that you become just an attender and not a worshipper, a listener to a message, but not a note taker and doer of the Word of God.

**#1.** First, let me address the presentation of God by religion, their deceived opinions, and flawed theology.

**A. Impersonal:** having no personality; devoid of human character or traits: an impersonal deity.

**John 14:9-10 NKJV:** <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

God shows Himself to be personal uniquely by His self-revelation in Jesus Christ. Since God has incarnated Himself in the person of Jesus Christ, this affirms that personal reality is the true expression of the divine being. God created us in His image for the purpose of having personal relationship with Him.

In the ministry of Jesus Christ, His every contact with people was extremely personal. His was a life of entering into fellowship, meeting people in their deepest needs and identifying Himself with them, even to His death on the cross. Furthermore, Jesus instructed His disciples to call God “Father” and depicted His and their relation to God as that of sons. Therefore, God is personal in Himself and toward others.

**B. Angry:** God has personal characteristics. God is depicted in the Bible as One who thinks, feels, and wills (all very humanlike activities); as one who laughs, dances, shouts, gets angry, rejoices, sorrows.

**Remember, we were created in the image of God.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:9 NLT:** For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.

**Romans 5:8-11 Passion Translation:** <sup>8</sup> But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!

<sup>9</sup> And there is still much more to say of his unfailing love for us! For through the blood of Jesus we have heard the powerful declaration, "You are now righteous in my sight." And because of the sacrifice of Jesus, you will never experience the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> So if while we were still enemies, God fully reconciled us to himself through the death of his Son, then something greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, and because we share in his *resurrection* life, how much more we will be rescued from sin's dominion!

<sup>11</sup> And even more than that, we overflow with triumphant joy in our new relationship of living in harmony with God—all because of Jesus Christ!

**C. Condescending and Condemning:** "**Condescending**" means 'to talk down to people, making them feel stupid, worthless, insignificant, and of no value.'

"**Condemning**" means 'to express an unfavorable or adverse judgment on; indicate strong disapproval of; censure; to pronounce to be guilty; sentence to punishment; to judge or pronounce to be unfit for use or service.'

**Romans 8:1-2 NKJV:** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

**1 John 3:20-22 NKJV:** <sup>20</sup> For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. <sup>22</sup> And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

(For us as believers, there is no condemnation, but there is conviction by the Holy Spirit if I sin or walk outside the will of God and, there can be consequences)

**D. God is behind all evil and bad events.**

**John 10:10-11 NKJV:** <sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

**James 1:12-13 NKJV:** <sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

**Romans 8:31-34 NKJV:** <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? *It is* God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

**E. Not relevant in our everyday life.**

**Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV:** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

**Matthew 6:8-11 NKJV:** <sup>8</sup> “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. <sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

**Matthew 6:25-34 NKJV:** <sup>25</sup> “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

<sup>28</sup> “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

**1 Peter 5:6-9 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**#2.** This is why we worship the way we worship!!

**Psalm 47:1-8 NKJV:**

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!  
<sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High *is* awesome;  
*He is* a great King over all the earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will subdue the peoples under us,  
And the nations under our feet.  
<sup>4</sup> He will choose our inheritance for us,  
The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
<sup>7</sup> For God *is* the King of all the earth;  
Sing praises with understanding.  
<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on His holy throne.