

10-10-2021, COTR Texarkana

Title: Let the Worshippers Arise

Purpose: Lay a foundation for Biblical worship and provoke people to be devoted worshippers of God.

Truth for Today: Worship is our devotion to God, expressed by how we live and how we praise Him.

Text: Psalm 95:1-7

Topic: Worship, Singing, Bowing, Awe, Gratitude

Series Title: Let the Worshippers Arise

Series Purpose: Lay a foundation for Biblical worship and provoke people to be devoted worshippers of God.

## Let the Worshippers Arise

### I. Introduction

A. Psalm 95:1–7 (NLT) Come, let us **sing to the Lord!** Let us **shout joyfully** to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come to him with **thanksgiving**. Let us **sing psalms of praise to him**. 3 For **the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods**. 4 He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. 5 The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too. 6 Come, **let us worship and bow down**. **Let us kneel before the Lord our maker**, 7 for **he is our God. We are the people he watches over**, the flock under his care...

1. What does, '*come let us worship*' mean? In my boyhood Methodist church, it was a song service, here it's a band with clapping, in the Catholic church it's a liturgy. What does the Bible say worship is, how do we express it, and why does it matter

B. New Series Title: Let the Worshippers Arise

C. Series Purpose: Lay a foundation for Biblical worship and provoke people to be devoted worshippers of God.

D. We'll answer questions like: What is worship? Who do we worship? Why should we worship? How do we express worship? What was a worship service like in the NT? Where do we worship? What happens when we worship? When do we worship?

E. Today we'll answer the question, what is worship? We'll see true worship is more than singing songs, it's a life lived in adoration, thanksgiving, and obedience to God.

F. Truth for Today: Worship is our devotion to God, expressed by how we live and how we praise Him.

### II. What is worship? (5 definitions)

A. **Worship is how we express our love for God through acts of praise, thanksgiving, and adoration** in private and at public gatherings. [Psalm 95:1–7 (NLT) Come, let us **sing to the Lord!** Let us **shout joyfully** to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come to him with **thanksgiving**...6 Come, **let us worship and bow down**. Let us **kneel** before the Lord our maker...]

1. Worship is the human response to God when He reveals Himself to us. When we become aware of what God has done for us, we express ourselves to Him.

2. The primary definition of worship is to *bow down*<sup>1</sup>. Kneeling/ bowing expresses our honor and reverence for God<sup>1</sup> but it's more than an outward act, it expresses an attitude of honor and submission to God. Kneeling, tells God I depend on You and can't live without You. Singing and shouting express our joy. [Ps. 47:1 (ESV) **Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**] Shouting

hallelujah means ‘praise the Lord’. When God makes us happy, we express it. This is one way we express worship. (1 sermon will be all about ways to worship.)

**B. Worship is more than singing; it’s the way we live our life.**

1. One def./aspect of worship is serving God., i.e., when we’re serving God we’re worshipping Him. [Luke 2:37 (NLT) Then she (*Anna*) lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, **worshiping God with fasting and prayer.**] [Romans 12:1 (NIV)...I urge you...in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**] The word *bodies*, represent the totality of our life and activities, i.e., what we do with our life.<sup>7</sup>
2. E.g. acts of people who love Jesus: (1) A dentist takes her vacation at a poor village in Mexico to pull teeth, (2) A couple realize God saved their marriage leads a Life Group to help marriages, (3) LaNell’s life of serving God after cancer, (4) When you walk away from sin it’s worship, Context Joseph refusing Potiphar’s wife, ”How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”, (5) You buy groceries for someone who lost their job, and (6) Even doing your job with excellence, [Col. 3:23 (NCV) In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. **Work as if you were doing it for the Lord**, not for people.]
3. Worship is more than singing; it’s the way we live our life, i.e., obedience to God’s laws and serving Him.

**C. Worship is how we declare/ affirm our recognition of God’s worth.**

1. [Revelation 4:10–11 (ESV) the twenty-four elders **fall down** before him who is seated on the throne and **worship him** who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 **“Worthy (*deserving*) are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things...**]
2. This expression of worship is offered to God, not because of what He has done for us but who He is. Whether with joyful song or laying prostrate with tears, true worshippers realize who God is join the heavenly choir saying, ‘You are worthy’.

**D. Worship is more than religious rituals and duty; it’s a heart attitude of awe and reverence for God.** I.e., We can go to church, give money, and even volunteer but not be worshipping if we’re doing it for the wrong reason. Religious rituals and external observance are no substitute for a grateful heart.<sup>6</sup> [Isaiah 1:11–17 (NLT) “What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?” says the Lord. “I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams... 12 When you come to **worship** me, who asked you to parade through my courts with all your **ceremony**? 13 Stop bringing me your **meaningless gifts...**

1. OT worship occurred primarily at the temple. It included animal sacrifices for sin, offerings, celebration of feasts and observance of Holy Days, e.g., sabbath. It was easy to focus on external religious duty instead of loving and serving God.// today
2. Vs. 15 (MSG) When you put on your next prayer-performance, I’ll be looking the other way. No matter how long or loud or often you pray, I’ll not be listening. And do you know **why?** (NLT) **because** your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims. 16...**Give up your evil ways. 17...do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend...orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.** (MSG) **Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.**

3. They had substituted rituals and rules for the main thing. [Mt. 22:36–38 (NLT) “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 37 Jesus replied, “ **You must love the Lord your God with all your heart...** ]
  4. Our worship must be more than ritual or observance of rules; true worship is a matter of the heart. Warning, [ Mark 7:6–7 (NLT) Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘**These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 Their worship is a farce,** for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’] True worship is expressed by adoring and serving the Lord.
- E. **Worship is our response to God when life is overwhelming.** Context: Job’s business had been destroyed, he was bankrupt, and his kids were killed. [Job 1:20–21 (NCV) When Job heard this, he...tore his robe and shaved his head to show how **sad** he was. Then **he bowed down to the ground to worship God.** 21 He said: “I was naked when I was born, and I will be naked when I die. The Lord gave these things to me, and he has taken them away. **Praise the name of the Lord.**”]
1. *Shaved his head* depicted the loss of his personal glory, success, and prosperity. There was nothing good to thank God for but God was still good when life was bad. Job responded to adversity with adoration, to woe with worship. He didn’t give in to bitterness; he refused to blame God for what happened.<sup>8</sup> That’s what true worshippers do.

### III. Conclusion

- A. John 4:23 (ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (MSG) “It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth.
- B. Summary: What is worship? (1) Worship is how we express our love for God through praise, thanksgiving, and adoration (2) Worship is more than singing; it’s the way we live our life. (3) Worship is how we declare/ affirm our recognition of God’s worth (4) Worship is more than religious rituals and duty. It’s a heart attitude of awe and reverence for God (5) Worship is our response to God when life is overwhelming.
- C. Truth for Today: Worship is our devotion to God, expressed by how we live and how we praise Him.
- D. Song...I love you Lord; Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

### IV. Response

- A. Prayer
- B. Souls

### V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

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