

Worship The Ultimate Priority

INTRODUCTION

A study about God. His character, his attributes, his worthiness of worship

Questions that will be considered and examined in our study (*consider answers personally and collectively. I and we*)

1. What is worship?

We are not speaking about the worship service or what we do when we gather.

The condition of our hearts in our desire to seek a relationship with God

2. What is our attitude towards worship?

True Worship is balanced and involves the mind, the emotions and the will. Pg.21

Notice the word will. What is our will to worship? How willing are we to worship?

Is our expectation of worship, to receive or to give.

3. Why do we worship?

To seek a relationship with God

Do we gather and participate to be, or expecting to be transformed?

4. When do we worship?

5. Where do we worship?

What are you expecting when you come to church each week?

6. Who should worship?

7. Who do we worship?

8. How should we worship?

9. Worship is at the center of the effectiveness of the church

a. Is there a connection,

b. What is the direction of our desires?

Worship The Ultimate Priority Chapter 1

Worship in the Bible - pg. 15

1. Worship covered all of life it was supposed to be the continual preoccupation for the people of God.
2. The tabernacle was the place where God met His people. The tabernacle was designed *only* for worship.
3. What do all of these references in scripture about the place and method for worship tell us?
 - a. Clearly there is something unique about worship

When Worship is wrong pg. 17

1. Why did God slaughter three thousand people when the Israelites worshiped a Golden Calf?
 - a. They did not worship him properly
2. In the account of Nadab why were the young priest killed instantly?
 - a. They acted independently of the revelation of God regarding proper worship.
3. In the account of Saul, what foolish act did Saul do?
 - a. Saul decided to usurp the role of the priest.
 - b. What affect did this action have on intended relationship with God
 - i. Patience in waiting for God's timing
 - ii. Usurped the intention of holiness
4. The account of Uzzah, we are all familiar with this story, we have discussed many times. Why did God slay them on the spot?
 - a. They did not act as God has commanded
5. What is the common thread in all three of these accounts?
 - a. Acting independently does what? Takes the priority off of God and places it on who?
 - b. Created a self-styled worship
 - c. Self-styled Worship is deviant worship regardless of our good intentions
 - d. Quite clearly the "*road to hell is paved with good intentions.*"

Worship The Ultimate Priority
Chapter 1

Four Kinds of Unacceptable Worship – pg. 20 -26

1. The worship of False Gods Romans 1: 21-31
 - a. We have heard the first two commandments of the ten. Yet Paul writes in Romans 1:21 “most of the world worships false Gods.” And “Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God of give thanks.”
 - i. *Why do you think that it is so?*
 - b. In Romans 1 verses 21-32 how does Paul outline the inevitable decent of man when man does not honor God or give thanks to him?
 - i. They became futile in their thinking
 - ii. Their foolish hearts were darkened
 - iii. They became fools, claiming to be wise
 - iv. Exchanged glory of the immortal God for other images
 - v. Given up for their dishonorable passions (*Lusts*)
 - vi. Given up to a debased mind
 - vii. Though they know the consequences of such actions they not only do them, but they give approval of the practice of them.
 - c. Everyone worships, the drive to worship is one our basic human needs God designed into our hearts.
2. The worship of the true God in the wrong form pg. 22
 - a. Why do you think God does not want to be reduced to an image?
3. The worship of the true God in a self-styled manner
 - a. What can lead to the incorporation or practice of a self-styled form of worship? Pg. 24
4. The worship of the true God in the right way with the wrong attitude
 - a. When it comes to worship, do we give it our best? Is our inner being filled with awe and reverence?
 - b. The prophecies of Israel’s and Judah’s destruction was related to the fact that they did worship God with the proper attitude.
5. Why is a clear understanding of worship important to all of Christendom? Pg. 26

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 2
How Shall We Then Worship

1. GOD’S “GOODTIME HOUR” pgs. 27-29
 - a. Church of the “what’s happenin now, they changed the name from bar-b-q-house to tabernacle” (Comedian Flip Wilson)
 - b. Why do you think we have a desire to change the practice of worship, *to make it more contemporary?*
 - c. What do you think makes it difficult to relate to a more Holy form of worship?

2. TRUE WORSHIP pg. 29
 - a. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
 - i. What does this verse say to us?
 - ii. Why is a renewed emphasis on worship heightened by a commitment to the centrality of scripture?

SOLA SCRIPTURA pg. 30 -31

Psalm 19 The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

3. THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE TO REGULATE WORSHIP
 - a. The regulative principle. pg. 31
 - b. God disapproves of all modes of worship not expressly sanctioned by his word. (*John Calvin*)
 - c. How would we explain the “regulative form of worship?”

4. APPLYING *SOLA SCRIPTURA* TO WORSHIP pg. 33
 - a. What are the four biblical guidelines for worship list by the author?
 - i. Preach the word pg.34
 - ii. Edify the flock pg. 36
 - iii. Honor the Lord pg.37
 - iv. Put no confidence in the flesh pg. 39
 - b. Choosing the “good part” has an eternal significance. Worship is the one essential activity that must take precedence over every other activity of life. Pg. 41

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 3
Worship Is a Way of Life

1. As we study this chapter consider the question: “Why is worship a way of life?”
2. Real acts of worship must be an overflow of a perpetual worshipping life. **Pg. 43**
3. WHAT IS WORSHIP?
 - a. Worship is honor and adoration directed at a God.
 - i. We may have an idea of what adoration looks and feels like; but what does honor look like?
 - b. Worship is ascribing to God his worth. **Pg.44**
 - c. On **page 44** the author writes “*The Hebrew word for “overflow” means “to boil over,” and in a sense that is exactly what praise is. The heart is so warmed by righteousness and love that, figuratively it reaches a boiling point. What does righteousness mean in this context?*”
 - d. On **page 44** the author lists three steps to genuine worship.
 - i. It begins with first giving _____
 - ii. Then giving our _____
 - iii. Then giving our _____ until worship is a way of life.
4. WORSHIP IN THREE DIMENSIONS (*Seeking acceptable Worship*)
 - a. *The outward dimension* **page 45** Discuss the following:
 - i. Being sensitive to a weaker brother [**READ Together Romans 14:13-18.**]
 - ii. Evangelism
 - iii. Giving to those in need
 - b. *The inward dimension*
 - i. Discuss **1 Timothy 2:2-3.**
 - ii. What is the idea behind the statement “in order that believers may live tranquil, quiet lives?”
 - c. *The upward dimension*
 - i. **Hebrews 13:15-16** “*Offer up sacrifice and praise*”
 - ii. Praising God, doing good, and sharing with others are all legitimate scriptural acts of worship.
 1. Discuss the idea of “Doing good.” What does this mean in the context of our study?

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 3
Worship Is a Way of Life

5. WHOLE LIFE WORSHIP page 46

- a. Because of what God has done for us, we are to be occupied with offering up acceptable spiritual sacrifices of worship pg. 47

6. THE ORDER OF PRIORITIES pg. 48

- a. **READ together Hebrews chapter 11**
- b. What are the priorities worship?
 - i. Worship
 - ii. Walk
 - iii. Work
- c. Discuss why is the correct order important?
- d. On page 49 in the paragraph, *Ministry must be kept in perspective*, what is the contrast between ministry and worship?

7. HOW ARE WE DOING? Page 50

- a. Big on ministry, small on adoration
- b. Worship as the Word of God presents it is *internal, sacrificial, active and productive*.
- c. Should church “rest until our souls catch up with our bodies?”

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 4
Saved to Worship

WORSHIP IS NOT OPTIONAL -Page 53

1. In the grand scheme of redemption, one of the principal things God is doing is transforming sinners into worshipers.
 - a. Whose benefit is our salvation for?
 - b. What might be the result of being primarily concerned first with the blessings we experience with salvation?

2. God's primary activity has always been the seeking of true worshipers
 - a. Spend a moment to consider what it means to be a **TRUE** worshiper.
 - b. What are the characteristics of a true worshiper?

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING – page 55

1. Heavenly Host
2. Adam and Eve - waked, talked, obeyed.
 - a. Why were Adam and Eve cursed? Sin came when they _____ by obeying satan's advice over God's _____. Their _____ to God was broken.

3. The division of offspring between Cain and Able was a dispute over acceptable and unacceptable worship

REDEMPTION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT Page 55

1. Why did the Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years before their descendants were allowed to enter the promised land?
2. **READ TOGETHER [Deuteronomy 26]**
 - a. What was the purpose of the feast of first fruits?
 - b. What were the two elements mentioned in the law about this feast?
 - i. Vs 5-11
 - ii. Vs 12-14
3. What lesson did the people of God learn about the connection between worship and blessings? **Page 56**

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 4
Saved to Worship

WORSHIP AND THE CROSS OF CHRIST Page 56

1. Christ death was a lesson in meaningful worship
2. We are to worship the Lord always even in the midst of persecution and death. If we can lift our eyes to the lord in the midst of our suffering, he then is glorified through our faithfulness in suffering.
 - a. How is He glorified, through our pain or something else?

RESPONSE TO THE MESSIAH Page 58

1. Those who Jesus ministered to worshiped him. (pg. 59)
 - a. Consider the three actions represented in this statement.
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____

WORSHIP WITHOUT END

1. What is the eternal Gospel (Rev. 14: 6-7; 19:10; 22:9) (*Explain*)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

WHO MAY ENTER HIS HOLY HILL? Page 61

1. Every person is truly justified *will* become a true worshiper.
2. Of which generation are we?
3. Consider how the truth is suppressed by unrighteousness **pg.63**

TURNING PAGANS INTO WORSHIPERS Page 64

1. Worship becomes a test of genuineness of salvation
2. What is the connection between “Christians” and true worshipers?
 - a. What is the easy assumption we may make?
 - b. Why is this dangerous?
3. Worship is the first visible expression of true faith
 - a. “*Actions speak louder than words.*”

THE MARK OF A BELIEVER Page 65

1. What is the mark of a true believer?
 - a. What does it often become confused with?

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 5
God: IS HE? Who IS He?

1. The Object of our Worship Pg. 67
 - a. Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that God exist and it is possible to know something about His nature.

2. DID MAN CREATE GOD?
 - a. What some of the are the typical characteristics of a God created by man?

 - b. What is a practical atheist? (Read Romans 8:4-8)
 - i. REFLECTION: In what ways Lord am I acting as a “practical atheist? In what ways do we try and hide from God?
 - c. Sinful man did not create God, if they had their way, they would create God out of existence,

3. HOW CAN WE BE SURE OF God? Pg. 70
 - a. The *teleological argument* (Grk. *Telos, perfect result*) The order of the universe is evident that a supreme intelligence, God created it.
 - b. The *aesthetic argument* -

 - c. The *volitional argument* –

 - d. The *moral argument* –

 - e. The *cosmological argument* – The argument of _____ and _____.

4. GOD IS A PERSON Pg. 71
 - a. When we think of a person, we think of *flesh*. What might this section of our study suggest that a person is?

5. GOD IS A SPIRIT BEING
 - a. God may be a person but He is not man
 - b. God represents himself to man in ways man can understand him

6. GOD IS ONE Pg. 73
 - a. There is only one God

Worship The Ultimate Priority – Chapter 5
God: IS HE? Who IS He?

7. THE FATHER AND SON ARE ONE

- a. We exist *for* God, *through* Jesus. 1 Corinthians 8: 5-6

8. THE FATHER AND SPIRIT ARE ONE

- a. We are the temple of the Lord and God's Spirit lives in us. When we sin, we bear false witness to the Spirit of God who lives in us.

9. GOD IS A TRINITY Pg. 76

- a. How would you explain the trinity?

10. GOD IS, AND WE CAN KNOW HIM Pg. 78

- a. How do we know God? He is
 - i. A _____
 - ii. A _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____
 - v. A _____