

To the Praise of His Glory

A Topical Study on Worship

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In order to responsibly consider the topic of worship in Scripture, we will need to read and share specific passages. We should make every effort to develop an understanding from Scripture.

What Worship is About

What do people usually mean by the word *worship*?

Is there anything that honors God but isn't worship?

Read **John 4.20-24**.

Is worship constrained to specific times or places?

Read **Romans 1.18-23**.

How did all this sin begin?

What does mankind keep exchanging?

Read **Ephesians 1.3-14**.

How does worship relate to Christ's mission?

Honoring God with our Hearts

Read **Amos 5.21-27**.

Why did God hate their worship?

Read **Isaiah 58**.

What might have seemed good about Israel's worship?

Why was it actually unacceptable?

Read **1 Timothy 2.8**.

What kind of prayer does God want from us in our public assemblies?

Read **Matthew 6.1-18**.

What should *not* be our motivation in worship?

What *should* be our motivation in worship?

Private Worship

Read **Mark 1.35-37** or **Luke 5.15-16; 6.12** or **Matthew 14.23**.

Why did Jesus take time to pray alone?

Read **Psalm 63**.

How does David make a point of devoting himself to God?

To what extent has David come to love God?

Read **Philippians 4.8-9**.

What can we do to immerse ourselves in “these things”?

What had these Christians learned and received, heard and seen in Paul?

Come prepared to share practical ways to grow in private worship.

Private Prayer

Read **Psalm 69**.

List the kinds of emotion this prayer exhibits?

Read **Psalm 88**.

Should we pray like this? Why or why not?

Read **Psalm 22**.

What can we learn from Jesus' usage of this prayer (*cf.* Mark 15.34)?

Read **Romans 8.26-27**.

What encouragement does Paul provide for Christians who groan in suffering?

Honoring God in the Ways We Worship

Read **Deuteronomy 12.1-7**.

Where were they to offer sacrifices and tithes?

Read **1 Kings 3.2-5** and **2 Kings 18.1-6**.

Whom were the people worshipping at the high places?

How did Hezekiah excel beyond his ancestors?

Read **Judges 17.1-6, 13**.

Whom was Micah worshipping and serving?

What's the problem?

Read **1 Corinthians 10.14-22**.

In what were some Christians participating?

How does Paul compare the cup and bread with the table in idol temples?

Sacrificing in Our Worship

Read **1 Chronicles 21.18-27**.

Why did David want to pay to offer his sacrifice?

What was the significance of this location?

Read **Revelation 8.1-5**.

How are prayers pictured? Why are they pictured this way?

Read **Romans 12.1-2**.

Why do we present ourselves as a living, acceptable, and holy sacrifice to God?

List some ways in which we should sacrifice when we worship God?

Read **Romans 14.1-4** and **10-11**.

How should we work through different personal convictions about worship?

Encouraging Each Other in Worship

Read **Ephesians 5.19** or **Colossians 3.16**.

What can we do for each other through song?

Read **1 Corinthians 14**.

What's the problem Paul is addressing?

What goal does Paul have in mind?

What is the solution?

How can we learn from this in our assemblies?

Read **Romans 15.1-7**.

What should be our goal when worshipping together?

Making the Most of the Lord's Meal

Read **1 Corinthians 11.17-34**.

How does this meal point to the past?

How does this meal anticipate the future?

Why do you suppose Jesus chose to have us do this together?

What aspects of this practice are meant for all Christians until Christ returns?

Read **Mark 14.22-25**.

What relationship does the Lord's supper have with our salvation?

Read **Isaiah 25.6-9** and **Luke 14.15-24**.

What should God's people be expecting?

Making the Most of Singing

Read **Exodus 15.1-3**.

Why did they sing?

What kind of emotions do you think they had?

Read **Ephesians 5.19** or **Colossians 3.16**.

Since songs teach, what can we do to effectively teach in our song leading?

Read one of the following: **Philippians 2.5-11**; **Colossians 1.15-20**; **1 Timothy 3.16**.

For what kinds of things do these songs/poems praise the Lord?

What are some hymns that have those same themes?

Read **Acts 16.22-25**.

What did their singing help accomplish?

Making the Most of Public Prayer

Read **Matthew 6.5-8**.

What is evil about such hypocrites?

What should receive greater emphasis than our public prayer?

What are ways we may be tempted to draw undue attention in our prayers?

Read **1 Timothy 2.1-8**.

What should motivate and characterize our prayers?

Read **John 17**.

Is Jesus alone for this prayer?

For what did Jesus pray?

How might our prayers share the focus of this prayer?

In light of all the above passages, how much variety of public prayers can there be?

Making the Most of Scripture Reading/Teaching

Read **1 Timothy 4.11-16**.

What is Timothy's special gift?

What forms of teaching are described in v 13?

Share some tips for reading Scripture out loud.

Read **1 Peter 4.10-11**.

What perspective should we have when we preach or teach?

Why should we speak this way?

Read **2 Timothy 2.14-19**.

What responsibilities did Timothy have as a teacher?

How could Timothy do his best?

Making the Most of Giving

Read **Matthew 6.1-4** or **Acts 5.1-6**.

How can we distort otherwise righteous behavior?

Why did Ananias and Sapphira lie about their giving?

Read **Mark 12.38-44** or **Mark 7.9-13**.

If our righteousness were measured by our financial contributions, how would this effect the poor?

How might we emphasize public giving to the neglect of other needs?

Read **1 Corinthians 16.1-4** and **2 Corinthians 8.8** and **9.7**.

Was the contribution by the Corinthians meant to be done indefinitely?

Should we teach that Christians are universally obligated to give every Sunday?

For what kinds of needs did churches take up contributions?
(supply additional passages)

Read **2 Corinthians 8.9**.

What is the ultimate reason to give when there is a need?

Eternal Worship

Read **Ephesians 1.3-14** and **Colossians 1.16**.

To what end has God carried out his mission?

For whom were all things created?

Why is it proud for people to demand praise but acceptable for God to demand praise?

Read **Revelation 4.8-11** and **Philippians 2.9-11**.

What was continually happening in heaven?

What will be happening in the end?

Read **Revelation 19.6-8** and **21.1-4** and **22-27**.

How should we envision eternity?