

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**January**

**14**

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## WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

by Jim Stauffer

First we should have an understanding of just what we are supposed to be doing in our worship. The priority is the One to Whom our worship is directed. The God of heaven, Creator of all the earth and everything on it, is the object of our adoration as He has loved and saved us from eternal destruction through the forgiveness of our sins.

The words translated as worship in our Bibles teach us it is an action of obeisance or reverence toward God. We revere Him in a feeling of awe when we properly worship Him. We pay homage and direct our piety toward Him as we worship.

In answering the question of why we worship, we must understand our relationship with Him. As mentioned before, we have been redeemed by the forgiveness of our sins. In this process we are born again and become the children of God (**1 John 3:1**). He is now the center of our lives and a change has taken place. We have put off the old man of the flesh and put on the new man, *....which has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth* (**Ephesians 4:22-24**). There has been a renewal of our mind that has brought about a transformation that turns our thoughts to things spiritual rather than earthly (**Romans 12:1,2; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16**).

This brings us to the question of whether I need to be at each assembly of the local congregation with which I have chosen to work and worship. Is it important for me to attend each and every service? Ask yourself this question. For whom do you think God designed worship? Then ask whether He thinks you should be at every service (**Hebrews 10:23-25; Psalm 95:1ff**). Our worship pays homage to God but also

encourages our brethren to do the same while drawing us closer to each other to receive the strength of such encouragement. And Scripture tells us when we are not in the assembly we are *forsaking* it.

When has the Lord forsaken *us*? Is He not ready to hear and intercede to God on our behalf? Both Peter and John tell us He is ready to hear us and answer our prayer (**1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 5:14,15**).

The early Christians recognized their need for such encouragement as they met regularly to worship and encourage one another. *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* (**Acts 2:42**)

Ask yourself if there is something more important, something that is better for you to do at that time. What is it brethren are doing when they forsake the assembly? Are they placing the appropriate emphasis on their role as His children, servants in His kingdom, disciples of Jesus our Savior? *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* (**Matthew 6:33**)

When we reflect on just what God has done for our salvation (Ephesians 2:4,5), who we become when we are added to the church, His temple (**1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:19-22**), a proper perspective is available to us. It reminds us of who we now are as a result of His love and care and our hearts should then be turned to devote ourselves to worshiping Him. It is through our lives we can truly bring honor and glory to His name.

## Ten Facts Everyone Needs to Know About the Bible

### It is the inspired word of God

All scripture is given by inspiration of God (**II Tim. 3:16**). The Bible is not a collection of words originating from the mere mind of man. The mind of God was revealed to man by revelation (**I Cor. 2:10-12**). Since God is the author of truth (**Jn. 17:17**), we ought to give a more earnest heed to the things that we have heard, knowing the source (**Heb. 2:1**).

### It is complete (Jude 3)

There is no reason to wait for additional revelation. What we have is sufficient. The apostles were told that they would be guided into *“all truth”* (**Jn. 16:13**). If it isn't complete, then any passage that instructs us to reject future messages would be out of place. Yet, all *“other”* gospels are to be rejected (**Gal. 1:6-12**). Thus, it is proper to take instruction telling us not to add or take away from the word of God.

### It is for everyone (Mk. 16:15)

The message from God is universal. It matters not to God what race you are, whether you are rich or poor, or male or female (**Gal. 3:27**). God so loved the world that He gave us His Son (**Jn. 3:16**). Everyone needs to take the message from above, personally. The reason the Bible is for all, is that all have the same need (**Matt. 4:4**).

### It is indestructible (I Pet. 1:25)

There are people trying to discredit the word of God. Yet, no matter what man tries to do, he cannot destroy the inspired word of God. Rejecting truth does not mean truth ceases to exist. Paul said it best when he stated that the word of God could not be bound or chained (**II Tim. 2:9**). Trying to hold back the divine word is like attempting to hold back the tide.

### It is a life-saving message (Acts 11:14)

There was a reason that the will of God was given to man, so that he might be saved (**II Jn. 9**). That which was delivered from God is described as the word of life (**Phil. 2:16**). Any sort of effort to nullify the validity of the scriptures is to try to destroy that which can save man.

### It is understandable (Jn. 8:32)

What use is there in obtaining that which cannot be grasped? Truth is understandable because God is responsible for it. If there is any confusion, you can be sure it is human error (**I Cor. 14:33**). We can seek and find, if we are looking (**Matt. 6:33**).

### It is powerful (Heb. 4:12)

When it comes to changing the lives of people, God's word is what is responsible (**Rom. 1:16**). In the beginning, God framed the worlds with His words

(**Heb. 11:3**). This is why God wants His children to spread the gospel. If we plant and water. He gives the increase (**I Cor. 3:6**).

### It is revealing (Gen. 1:1)

Where did man come from? Is there life after death? All such questions can be answered by turning to God's word. The scriptures give us insight to many things, including man (**Jas. 1:25**). The perfect law of liberty is like a mirror, if you look unto it you can see yourself as you truly are. Many refuse to look for fear of what they might see.

### It is to be rightly divided (II Tim. 2:15)

All through this pamphlet we have used the word Bible. Although all things in it are for our learning (**Rom. 15:4**), and even though it is inspired (**II Tim. 3:16**), it is not all binding today. Christ nailed the Old Law to the cross (**Col. 2:14; Heb. 8-9**). It is important to know what is the lifesaving message for today. This requires time and effort, which is what our Lord demands (**II Pet. 3:15**).

### It is our measure (Jn. 12:48)

The words that have been delivered are those which we will be judged by in the last day. It is our duty to search the scriptures and compare ourselves to it (**II Cor. 13:5**). We can see just how important the Bible is to all mankind.

**Chuck Bartlett**

## THE STING OF DEATH

Ephraim was the largest of the twelve tribes; Joseph was the father of Ephraim and Manasseh; sometimes, Ephraim refers to the entire northern kingdom; sometimes, Israel is used to refer to the twelve tribes. Israel would be taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722BC; they never reappeared. Outside forces sometimes bring ruin to a nation. Economic downturns, drought, and invading armies can bring about a reversal of fortune. Now, though, Ephraim brought spiritual ruin and decay on themselves by continuing in idolatry. *“Through Baal, he did wrong and died.”* Death always comes when God is exchanged for idols.

Pluralism is a mindset, or worldview, or philosophy that “elevates the categories of diversity, multiplicity and difference, rather than homogeneity, unity and sameness” (*Pocket Dictionary of Ethics*, 90). Molten images, idols made of silver, and the skilled works of craftsmen, provided choices for the people of God to worship the idols in their hearts (**Ezekiel 14:4**). If the

ground yielded a bumper crop, thank the *gods*. If rain flowed from heaven, thank the *gods*. Kiss the calves! Bow to the *gods* that controlled the world. Ephraim forgot or ignored the real nature of false religion.

*“Therefore, they will be like the morning cloud and like dew which soon disappears, like chaff, which is blown away from the threshing floor, and like smoke from a chimney” (13:3).*

*“Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? Death, where are your thorns? Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion will be hidden from My sight” (Hosea 13:14 NASV).* This passage is familiar to students of the New Testament. The Apostle Paul quotes part of this warning in **First Corinthians 15:55**. Paul’s teaching about the resurrection inspires and gives hope; death is a victory for the faithful; the sting of death is sin, but that sting has been taken away by the resurrection of Christ. Is this the point Hosea is making to God’s people? Does it apply strictly to the judgment that would come on Israel? Does it look beyond captivity to a time of restoration? We wonder if God’s people really wanted a relationship with their Creator. After all, they were steeped in idolatry; persistence in that kind of rebellion could only bring God’s righteous judgment. When judgment came, Israel should not have been surprised.

Notice the rhetorical questions in **Hosea 13:14**. *“Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol?”* (no) *Shall I redeem them from death?* (no) *Death, where are your thorns?* (your thorns cannot diminish the reward of the faithful) *Sheol, where is your sting?* (death cannot hold the children of God) *Compassion will be hidden from My sight.”* The sting of death has been taken away. Absorbing the sting of death, Jesus died and arose from the grave. Do you really want to put your faith in an idol?

**Randy Harshbarger**

### “Get out”

*Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart. Luke 8.37*

When in Israel last March, there were places where I could see nearly the entire eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, and I wondered, where did the incident with the Gadarene demoniac occur? It’s an incredible story.

### A deranged man

A legion of demons lived in a man. You’d think one demon would be enough to ruin your life, but to have a legion tearing you up —was any individual Christ encountered more tortured than this poor man? The local demon-busters were powerless to help him; nothing they did helped.

### A disturbed community

All it takes to disrupt a community is one devil-controlled, unhinged lunatic full of hate (**Mk. 5.3–5**), and a community’s common weal can be changed forever.

### A disgraceful request

Christ did what men couldn’t; He restored the man to his sanity (**8.35**). But some bacon was lost in the process (**8.33**), and how did the community react? By praising God from whom all blessings flow? No, by telling Him to get out. The same has been done in this country. We’ve told Christ to get out of our schools (no prayer), out of our government (an effigy of the devil in the Iowa state capitol is okay, but you’d better not post a copy of the Ten Commandments), and we’ve gone WOKE, that is, pagan, and told Him to get out of our business. The result? Among other things, presidents of prestigious universities who won’t condemn genocide but will defend plagiarism. When Christ is told to leave, what then? We’ll take a look at that next article.

**Kenny Chumbley**

### Announcement:

#### **For any and all who may visit our services**

We have changed our worship times. To accommodate our membership, some who travel long distances and some who are unable to drive at night, we have combined the Sunday Morning and Evening Services. We now meet at 9:00 AM for Bible Class  
We begin worship at 10:00 AM

**Psalm 1:1** ~ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Sunday A.M. ~ 9:00 Bible Study
- Sunday A.M. ~ 10:00 Assembled Worship
- Wednesday P.M. ~ 7:00 Bible Study & Worship

*Visitors welcome*

*We conduct in home Bible Studies*

*We offer Correspondence Courses*

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

**7845 Cottonwood Drive  
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*Check out the following websites:*

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

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**Elders:**

**Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons:**

**Bill Miller**

**Troy Armstrong**

*"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi,  
with the bishops and deacons:"*

**Philippians 1:1**

### NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER, BROOKLYN BOYER,  
DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY,  
WAYNE MOODY, BOB OWEN, MARK  
WALKER, PAT M-CLOUD, ELLIE  
GOLDSTON, WINNIE RAWSON,  
GENE MCCLUNG, DALE RICHARDSON,  
ZACH FLAXBEARD AND JORDAN  
MOODY.

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#### BIBLE CLASSES:

SUNDAY MORNING - BILL MILLER  
FELLOWSHIP  
WEDNESDAY 7 PM - JIM STAUFFER  
MINOR PROPHETS

#### SUNDAY SERMON:

**SERVANTS IN THE KINGDOM**



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

- **Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6
- **Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30
- **Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10
- **Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- **Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10