

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Psalms 96:9

What is worship?

Grammatically, *worship* can be either a verb or noun. According to *Webster's Dictionary*, its verb form includes such synonyms as "esteem," "exalt," "revere," "glorify" and "respect." As a noun, it can encompass adoration, veneration, devotion, supplication and invocation. Its actual definition, though, is "reverence, honor or homage paid to God; ceremonies or services expressing such reverence." Worship thus includes both an attitude and the actions that accompany and are motivated by it.

- **In the Old Testament**

- **hxy – shachah:** a primitive root; to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive, in homage to royalty or God):--bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.
- First use of the word is found in **Genesis 22:5** "And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."
- Last use of the word is found in **Zechariah 14:17** "And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain."
 - **Used 166 times in the OT**
 - **Shachah** is also translated:
 - "Bowed down" – **Gen. 23:12**
 - "Made obeisance" – **Gen. 37:7**
 - "Fell flat" – **Num. 22:31**
 - "Crouch" – **1 Sam. 2:36**
 - "Did reverence" – **2 Sam. 9:6**
 - "Humbly beseech" – **2 Sam. 16:4**
 - "Fell down" – **2 Sam. 18:28**
 - "Stoop" – **Prov. 12:25**

- **In the New Testament**

- **proskunew - proskuneo:** (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):--worship.
- First use of the word is found in **Matthew 2:2** "Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."
- Last use of the word is found in **Revelation 22:9** "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."
 - **Used 56 times in the NT...each time it is translated, "Worship"**

- **The first instance of worship in the Scriptures – Gen. 4:3-5**

- Abel's was the true worship of the true God
- Cain's was the false worship of the true God
 - How did Abel know what to offer the Lord? _____
 - Why did the Lord not accept Cain's sacrifice? _____

- **Worship** has been defined as the honor and adoration which are rendered to God by reason of **what He is in Himself** and **what He is to those who render it**.

- "O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to **the rock of our salvation**. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For **the**

LORD is a great God, and **a great King** above all gods. **In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.** O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before **the LORD our maker.** For **he is our God;** and **we are the**

- **people of his pasture**, and **the sheep of his hand.**” **Psalms 95:1-7**

• God is:

- Our Father – **1 Thess. 1:3**
- Our savior – **1 Tim. 1:1**
- Our High Priest – **Heb. 10:21**
- What else is God to you?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

• **Worship:**

- God is the object
- Christ is the ground
- The Holy Spirit is the power

- **Ministry** descends from God through Christ by the Spirit to the Church
- **Worship** ascends from the Church by the Spirit through Christ to God

How do we worship?

- “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” **Heb. 13:15-16**
 - Worship is sacrifice
 - Worship comes from the heart – **Matt. 12:34**
 - Worship can be found in what we do
 - Worship can be found in our giving
 - **All of these can be done hypocritically, and would not be true worship**

Requirements for worship

- **“God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24**
 - **To worship ‘in spirit’** is to worship according to the true nature of God, and in the power of that communion which the Holy Spirit gives. It stands in contrast to worship consisting in forms and ceremonies, and to the religiousness of which the flesh is capable.
 - “Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made” **Isa. 2:8**
 - “Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things” **Acts 17:25**
 - “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.” **Phil. 3:3**
 - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. **Matthew 15:8**
 - **To worship ‘in truth’** is to worship God according to the revelation which He has been pleased to give of Himself.

- Consider some aspects of the Lord that he has revealed to us.
- “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” **John 6:44-51**

The importance of worship

- “...the Father seeketh such to worship him.” **John 4:23**
- The very nature of God requires that men worship Him. Indeed, we are saved so that we are able to worship the Lord. Our Father is seeking worshippers. Are you a worshipper of God? (**John 9:31**)
- Worship is a response – **Rev. 5:12**
 - To His person – **Matt. 14:33; Rev. 5:12**
 - To His love – **Matt. 8:2**
 - To His work – **Matt. 9:18; Rev. 4:9**
 - When we, as believers, consider our place as redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, it is a natural reaction to worship Him.
 - Spending time in worship is spending time considering his “worthship”

Who can worship?

- **ONLY BELIEVERS CAN WORSHIP...** “Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.” **John 9:31**
- “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.” **John 4:23**
- **ONLY PRIESTS CAN WORSHIP...** “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people; **that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.**” **1 Peter 2: 5,9**
- “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” **Psalms 66:18**

Who should we worship?

- Only the true and living God
 - No false or ‘strange’ Gods – **Ex. 34:14; Ps. 81:9**
 - Not angels – **Rev. 19:10**
 - Not men – **Acts 14:11-15; Acts 10:25-26**
- Worship Jesus (Jesus is God)
 - **Matt. 28:9**
 - **John 9:38**
 - **Rev. 5:11-14**

One final thought, spending time being occupied with the Lord in worship causes us to see Him more like He is, not how we fancy Him to be. Thinking and meditating on the Lord will cause our hearts and minds to be filled with Himself. Furthermore, what comes out of us is what is in us. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...” “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” **Matt 6:21** and **12:34**

“...Worship God...” Rev. 19:10

YPM/2008 – Charles Carter