

Bible Correspondence Course #14
LESSONS on WORSHIP
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LESSON on WORSHIP

By: Bro. Jim Bowers

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Lessons on Worship

Lessons 1 – 4

Course # 14

Lesson # 1

Worship Defined

When Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan (Matthew 4), Satan takes Him into an exceeding high mountain and said, *"All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."* Matthew 4:9. Jesus responds, *"...It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him ONLY shalt thou SERVE."* Matthew 4:10.

Again, when Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee, it was necessary for him to travel through Samaria. On this trip He encountered a woman of Samaria at Jacob's well. John 4. The subject of their conversation was "worship." This will be OUR SUBJECT in this Lesson and four others lesson to follow.

In this First Lesson, I will cover the following areas: 1. Define Worship, and show what is involved in worship. 2. Answer the Question: What acceptable worship must include, and 3. Show the object of our worship.

I ...Worship Defined

Vine's Expository Dictionary. "Honor, Obeisance, Reverence, and Homage paid, by man to Deity." Notice the word "PAID!" That is more to worship than mere feelings. It surely must include feelings, but much more is involved. Satan said to our Lord, *"...If you will fall down and worship me."* Matthew 4:10.

Some people complain, after a worship service: "I didn't get anything out of that service." That is really the wrong question. The real important question is: What did you put into it? Or, What did you pay? If you do not GIVE anything (or, put anything into it), how can you expect to get anything out of it? You cannot get something for nothing, even in WORSHIP. WORSHIP in and of itself; is NOT necessarily acceptable to God. Because:

1) THERE IS VAIN WORSHIP

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9.

2) THERE IS IGNORANT WORSHIP

"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore **ye ignorantly worship**, him declare I unto you." Acts 17:23,

3) THERE IS WILL WORSHIP

"Which things have indeed a show of wisdom **in will worship**, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh." Colossians 2:23. Involved in this is Presumptuous Worship. *"Keep back thy servant also from **presumptuous sins**; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."* Psalms 19:13.

4) THERE IS "TRUE WORSHIP.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must worship him in spirit and in truth.**" John 4:24. This is what we should always strive for as we attempt to worship God.

Worship is also described in an Old English word "WORTHSHIP." This is a compound word including two words WORTH and SHIP. "Worth" means Value or Price Paid. "SHIP" means to engage for service. So worship means, "something paid to deity."

II ...WHAT MUST WORSHIP INCLUDE?

Worship involves **ATTENTION**. God got Moses attention in a Burning Bush. *"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."* Exodus 3:2. Isaiah had preached for years, but in Chapter 6, he came into the presence of the Lord, and this is what happened. *"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."* Isaiah 6:5-7. When the Seraphim flew to Isaiah with a live coal (fire), in a tong and touched his lips, God got his attention.

In Acts 2, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the power, with which the church was to be established, God got the attention of the people, with the sound of a rushing mighty wind and the cloven tongues of fire. As Peter spoke, every foreigner (those that spoke a different language) heard and understood what Peter was saying. Then, eight time in the Book of Revelation, John said, *"he that hath an ear, let him hear."* That is, let him pay close attention to what God says in the Bible, so as to Obey Him.

1) WORSHIP INVOLVES OUR MEMORY

There is always a looking back. The Bible was completed nearly 1900 years ago, and it is our GUIDE in WORSHIP today. Jesus said, in connection with the Observance of the Lord's Supper, as a part of WORSHIP: *"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do **in remembrance of me.**"* Luke 22:19. Here we use our memory to look back to the cross, and then, forward to his coming again.

2) WORSHIP INVOLVES HONORING GOD

No finite or mortal man can know what Worship is due a sovereign, God except as God himself tells him: WHAT to do and HOW to do it. God has given us a Divine Plan for Worship. If there was NO DIVINE PLAN, then there would be NO worship that would NOT be acceptable. There would be NO Disorder in Worship, No Error in Worship, and NO transgression of God's law in Worship. And yet, the Bible clearly teaches that these things are possible. Matthew 15:8-9.

Churches of Christ throughout the world worship the same way. WHY? Because we recognize that there is a DIVINE PLAN for worship. If people can worship differently and God accepted their worship, that would mean, there is no Divine standard, and no Divine rules for Worship. Or it would mean God is a respecter of persons, and this cannot be true. *"For there is not respect of persons with God."* Romans 2:11.

What better way can we Honor God, than by obeying Him, by doing exactly what he tell us to do in our Worship of him? When all worshippers, worship God Exactly as He tell us to, then we can say that we are all honoring God.

3) WORSHIP INVOLVES REVERENCE FOR GOD.

That is, worshippers perform Acts of Obeisance and demonstrate Respect of God. God created man as a free moral agent (that mean he has the right to choose whether he will obey God, or whether he will not obey Him.)

QUESTION: Is there REVERENCE and RESPECT for God, when people GO BEYOND God's specific instructions and do what they want to do, rather than that which God has told us to do? NO! When people change, alter, or in some way circumscribe God's Divine Plan, they show no respect or reverence for God. If a person will do that, they demonstrate by those actions that they will change any of God's Laws.

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(Story of a man taking a trip. Before he left he gave instructions to his sons about making some improvements to their home. He said, "Build a house, a Barn and Dig a well." In each case he gave the place where they were to put the house, the barn and the location of the well. When he returned, they had built the house and dug the well where the father had told them too, but had built the barn in a different place.

The father said to his sons, "You have not done one thing that I told you to do." The sons responded, "Yes, the only thing that we changed was the location of the barn." The father responded, "No! you built them where you wanted to build them. By your action, you have shown that if you had wanted the house and well in a different place, you would have put them there."

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If people will violate God's Divine Laws of Worship, then they demonstrate to God that they will CHANGE any of His laws. How can one reverence God and NOT follow his directions or instructions? The simple FACT is, they cannot! Yes, we must reverence God in our worship.

4) WORSHIP INVOLVES HOMAGE (External Acts).

Church attendance for example. Here is a problem that all churches face. And it shows that we have church goers, and NOT true worshippers. The question is often asked, "Why don't people come back Sunday night and Wednesday night?" That is NOT the real question. The real question is: Why do they assemble on Sunday morning? Is it to PAY Respect, Homage, and Adoration to almighty GOD? That should be the REAL REASON. Are these things done on Sunday night and Wednesday night? Or, does God deserve these thing ONLY on Sunday morning?

5) WORSHIP INVOLVES FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42

An ASSEMBLY infers FELLOWSHIP. It is a Feast for the soul, not a Funeral. It is a Celebration of Victory, NOT to mourn a defeat. There should be joy in our hearts, it should NOT just be something to endure for an hour. We should be transported to the very presence of God in our worship. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* Matthew 18:20. We should built each other up in the Most Holy Faith. *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* Proverbs 27:17. We build each

other up in our Worship of God together. *"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."* Romans 14:7.

6) WORSHIP INVOLVES SERVICE.

This is a service that is given to fellowman as well as God. When Jesus was questioned about: what is the greatest commandment, this was his answer: *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all*

thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This LOVE involves any service that we render to God or to man.

III... THREE THINGS THAT ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP MUST INCLUDE

1) It must be only that which is due a sovereign God.

2) And, only that which will spiritually profit (or edify) those who are worshipping.

3) And, only that which is so clearly taught in the New Testament that it may be enforced upon every congregation assembled to WORSHIP.

The New Testament provides all of these: There is an assembly to cultivate Fellowship, Pay Honor, Reverence, Respect, and Homage to God. The Lord's Supper is observed to commemorate the Lord's death, and to look forward to his return.

There is a period of Bible teaching. This shows respect for God's Word, and a sincere desire to know more about it. It also shows a love for the truth. *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* John 17:17.

There is a recognition of the presence of God. We show this by singing praises to Him, and teaching and admonishing one another with spiritual songs. *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."* Ephesians 5:19. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* Colossians 3:16.

There is the giving of our material worth, to support Lord's work. (This is a test of our love.) For you see, everything that we have, really belongs to God. He wants to know if we love Him, or if we LOVE MAMMON. (Matthew 6:24).

There are prayers, that show our complete trust in God. These are channels through which we express to God, our heartfelt appreciation and love for all that he has done for us.

IT IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL, WHEN DONE IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

IT IS UPLIFTING AND THRILLING and give SATISFACTION to our Souls.

IT IS TRUE WORSHIP.

IV THE OBJECT OF OUR WORSHIP

Some may think this POINT infantile or juvenile, but notice Revelation 22:9, There is a simple command: *"...Worship God."* *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."* Exodus 20:3. *"For though there be that are called gods, whether*

in heaven or on earth; as there are gods many, and lords many; yet to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we unto him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him."

1 Corinthians 8:5-6.

There has been throughout History, many gods and goddesses. (Notice: When these god's are mentioned, there is always a lower case "g," whereas when the God of Heaven is mentioned, a capital "G" is used.) These god's symbolize wealth, property, fame, and fortune. The fact is, they still exist in the hearts of mind of many people. There are materialistic idols that people worship today. And there are many things that occupy their time, talent, and attention -- things that many put first, ahead of God.

Jesus put things in their proper perspective in: Matthew 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* This is the Lord's answer to what True Worship really is. We must put God and the body of His Son FIRST, before anything else. (His Son's Body is His Son's church, of course).

A very important question: Are your worshipping God acceptably today?

End

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Lesson On Worship

Course # 14

Lesson # 2

What Is Involved In Worship Service?

After Jesus began his earthly ministry by being Baptized of John, he was lead into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, to be Tempted of Satan. (He had fasted for 40 days and nights.) Satan said to Him, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be turned to bread." Jesus responded: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4.

Next, he was taken to the pinnacle of the Temple and there his Sonship of God was questioned. Satan said to him, "...If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Matthew 4:6. Jesus responds to this Temptation by saying, "...Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Matthew 4:7.

Next, He was taken, "...Into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, (Satan said unto Jesus) all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:9. "Jesus said unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10. (NOTICE: "WORSHIP" and "SERVING" go together.) Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24.

From these passages of Scripture, we learn that we can worship one of two spirit beings. God or Satan. If we faithfully worship God we are promised Salvation. If we worship Satan, there is only one thing that awaits us, Condemnation.

No one has to worship God. "...They that WORSHIP him...." Jesus said. (This shows that we have a choice about whom we worship). But we must remember that, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24. God has given to us the right to chose whom we will worship. We MUST decide for self. All should want to worship God and be saved eternally, I know of no one who wants to be lost. But, we must add that, all are worshipping one or the other.

SO TODAY, AS WE TALK ABOUT "WORSHIPPING GOD" we will:

- 1) Show What is Involved in a Worship Service.
- 2) Show that "WORSHIP" takes preparation.
- 3) Ask the question: "Why People Attend Worship Services."
- 4) Show why it is a sin to willfully miss worship services.

I...WHAT IS INVOLVED IN A WORSHIP SERVICE

1) WORTHSHIP. (Discussed in Last One)

"Courtesy or Reverence PAID to WORTH; Honor, or Respect." "Act of PAYING DIVINE HONOR TO DIETY." (Worth shown to God). "To PERFORM an ACT OF HOMAGE." (A Ceremony by which one acknowledges self as a servant of God). Remember Matthew 4:10, "WORSHIP" and "SERVE."

Worship can be DEFINED in some ways, as a CONTINUAL SERVICE, but our EMPHASIS in this Lesson, is on a "FORMAL" Worship Service. That is, when Christians assemble together specifically to worship God.

2) RITUAL

"The form of conducting a religious ceremony; worship." That is doing the same things over and over, week after week, month after month, year after year, for a whole lifetime. Singing; Praying; Giving; Observing the Lord's Supper, and Studying God's Word.

Some people offer this excuse for changing the worship services from WHAT God required, to WHAT they WANT done: "I get tired of doing the same thing over and over." Or, "It loses its appeal." Or, "It has no real meaning." And some use this as AN EXCUSE for NOT attending the worship services.

CHURCH SERVICE is best described as, "the assembly of the church." Some use this "RITUAL" aspect of our Worship Service as an EXCUSE to ADD other innovations. Their IDEA is that, we need to SUP-IT-UP, to Please Men. We KNOW (of we should know) that it is WRONG to ADD anything that God has not authorized, especially in our Worship of God.

But some COMPLAIN: "I don't get anything out of it, because we just do the same things over and over." When we use that as an excuse for NOT worshipping with others, we are essentially saying, "God does NOT KNOW what is best for us." Or we are saying to God, "I don't like the way you require me to worship." Or, "God you do not know what is best for me?"

WHY WOULD GOD LEGISLATE THE SAME ACTS OVER & OVER for a lifetime?

1. I know that God is SMARTER than we are (than I am).
2. I know that God KNOWS what is BETTER for us, than even we KNOW what is BEST for ourselves.
3. I see the WISDOM OF GOD in doing this, because it is a "RITUAL" that is PRACTICED worldwide.

(Regardless of where we are in this World, when we ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD, there are 5 things that God has instructed us to do. I can Worship here, Canada, Fairbanks, Alaska, or any other place in the WORLD, and it will be the same. When I enter any church building, the Worship is the same, I know beforehand exactly what is going to take place. Therefore, I enter that Worship Service "at ease," with "Peace of Mind," and "Prepared to Worship." There is NO ANXIETY about going in, because I KNOW what is going to be done.)

4. We are COMFORTABLE with that which we are familiar.
5. Why do we hate to "break in" a new pair of shoes?

The same thing is TRUE of other things around us. The "True worshipper" will never let a RITUAL displease them. They will always get something out of a Worship Service. They will NEVER go away feeling empty or disappointed, because they will put something into it. YES! WORSHIP IS A "RITUAL."

3) PERFORMANCE

"To carry out, or execute some action, engagement, or the like; so we do something...." Isn't this a vital part of our Worship of God? Worship is certainly Active, it is NOT Passive. We cannot Worship if we do not do something, and to DO SOMETHING is to PERFORM.

4) DRAMA

"A series of REAL EVENTS having DRAMATIC UNITY and INTEREST." For example: "A THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE." Now we have gotten to the Heart of what "WORSHIP" really means. In order to understand this, we need to LOOK at how a Theatrical Performance is done.

THREE PARTS

PERFORMERS ON STAGE; PROMPTERS; and AN AUDIENCE. We have essentially the same three Roles in Worship. But, our problem is, we have the ROLES MIXED UP, that is, we have the WRONG PEOPLE in the WRONG PLACE, and we have them doing the WRONG THINGS.

We believe that "WORSHIP" is carried out this way: 1. GOD IS THE PROMPTER. 2. SONG LEADER; PREACHER; and others up front are PERFORMERS. 3. And those in the PEWS, are the audience.

UNDER THIS FORMAT: God tells us what to do; the people up front are to Perform so as to Please those who are in the Audience. And IF the Performers don't Perform so as to satisfy those in the Pews; something like this is often said: "The Preacher was TOO DEEP or TOO SHALLOW, Or, the Song Leader messed up two or three songs," etc. AM I NOT RIGHT? Does this NOT bother some people? That is WHY some people GET UPSET and quit.

WHAT IS WRONG HERE?

There are several things WRONG. But the basic PROBLEM (bottom line) is this: We have assigned the WRONG ROLES to the WRONG PEOPLE. 1. GOD is the Audience. 2. Those who are the leaders in the Worship are the PROMPTERS. And, 3. Those in the Pews are the Worshipers (Actors). The purpose of the Prompters, is to please God, NOT those in the Pews. They MUST worship and serve GOD, not PEOPLE. And when someone QUILTS the church, they walk out on God, NOT on us.

NOTICE NOW THE CORRECT ORDER

God is the Audience. He is the OBSERVER. He is the One who is to be Pleased. Those up front are the Prompters. It is their duty to help the Worshipers to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Those who are in the Pews are the Performers (Worshippers). "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20. Why is Christ present in our worship services?

To OBSERVE WORSHIPPERS. And, examine what is in our hearts. "...For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7. God is not present with us to see what we wear! (Although our clothing is certainly important.) God does know what we wear, but His main emphasis is NOT on the outside, but at what is in our HEART (The Inside of Man). He knows if we are True Worshipers or False Worshipers. What is He seeing in your heart, as you worship Him?

When I was in the Air Force, we had Performance Reports given by our Supervisors periodically. A lot of things depended upon those Reports: Promotions, Job Assignments and a host of other things. Well! I believe that the Bible teaches us that God gives us Performance Reports when we assemble to worship Him! If he does: What kind of report does he give you when you are engaged in a formal worship service? For Some it is a FLAT ZERO, because they don't even bother to attend the worship services. But, just being at a worship

service, does not guarantee a GOOD REPORT either. We MUST Perform for God (that IS we do those things that He has told to do,) as we Worship him.

II. TRUE WORSHIP IS DETERMINED BY:

What You Put Into It, not necessarily, by What You Get Out of Worship .

WORSHIP TAKES PREPARATION

In order to Worship God acceptably, we MUST be Prepared to Worship. The average Worshipper cannot Worship God, when their minds are on earthly things. Charles Hodge (The Texas Preacher) wrote an article, which I appreciated very much:

"I grew up in a home where Saturday night was a preparation for worship on Sunday. We were expected to Study our Bible School lesson, polish our shoes, and take our baths. And there was always something dynamic about our Worship the next day, because we went with a sense of expectancy."

PREPARATION must start before 9 A.M. on Sunday morning, and it MUST be a Personal thing with each of us. Because Worship is a very personal thing. It must start in our HEARTS, because that is WHAT GOD SEES.

III. WHY DO PEOPLE ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES?

I am at this POINT, telling you what OTHERS HAVE SAID. "To get rid of LONELINESS." "To Find Self." "To Share Cultural Exchanges." "For Self-Fulfillment." This is usually connected with self. (That is: When one attends to be pleased, and NOT to please God.) They attend to be entertained with great preaching and angelic singing, and other things that they like. (This is where the idea of SPECTATOR comes in).

Some people take no personal responsibility for their WORSHIP, but leave it entirely up to others. When people attend a church service with THIS in their minds, then if they are NOT PLEASED, they will usually leave and do NOT come back. If people have to be ENTERTAINED to keep them coming, a LOT OF TEACHING must be done on this SUBJECT.

Some come they say, to have a "WORSHIP EXPERIENCE." Ben Patterson, from the Harding Graduate School, Memphis, Tennessee, had this to say about such a statement:

"That is not only idolatrous, it is a reversal of worship roles, and pagan in its understanding of worship itself. Worship then becomes a noun, a state of being, an experience induced by God, by the singers, or by the preacher. Biblically, however, worship is a VERB, it is something WE DO."

WORSHIP then, is something WE DO, not something WE HAVE DONE FOR US. How should one come to WORSHIP? "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Psalms 85:6. "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15. We MUST attend with a Searching Heart: a heart of Conviction, a Penitent heart, a Humble heart, and to Perform for God.

We need a heart filled with Joy and Gladness. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37.

Sometimes people come to worship with empty hearts, and empty hands and totally unprepared to worship God. No doubt that is why so many leave, feeling cheated, discouraged, and disappointed. But, is that God's fault? The Preacher's fault? Or, the Song Leaders fault? A mature Christian will take responsibility for their own action in worship of Almighty God.

IV WHY IS IT WRONG TO MISS A WORSHIP SERVICE?

It violates a COMMAND OF GOD. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25. "...Thou shalt

worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10. We don't have to worship God, but when we don't, we are worshipping him who will accuse us in Judgment. See: Matthew 6:24.

It is WRONG because, we are NOT obeying our Elders. Hebrews 13:7, 17. It is WRONG because, we are NOT Paying Homage and Reverence to Almighty God. Someone may ask, what is WRONG with this?

Illustration: You buy a ticket to some PERFORMANCE. Those who are supposed to PERFORM, do not show up. Or, they show up UNPREPARED. You would DEMAND your MONEY BACK. Now IF God is the Audience (and He is), He has "paid a PRICE to see us PERFORM for Him." (What Did it COST Him? The precious BLOOD of His only begotten Son. That, my friends, is A HIGH PRICE TO PAY.) Do you think that God will accept anything from us, that is not the very best we have to give to Him? I THINK NOT!

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Lesson On Worship

Course # 14

Lesson # 3

The Spirit of Worship

"MUST" makes it Necessary! But, "God is a Spirit" He is not Material, or Flesh, nor does He have fleshly limitations. For this reason He cannot be restricted to any ONE PLACE, for example: THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP

The Word "WORSHIP" is found 190 times in the Bible, (and there is a UNIQUE thing about it.) In NONE of these reference are we COMMANDED to worship. Mankind is a Religious being, one who is inclined to worship, because this is the way God made him / us. Man will worship something, he may NOT be the God, but he WILL Worship something or someone.

God tells us "HOW" to worship, "WHEN" to worship, and "WHAT" to worship, to please Him. But He knows man will worship. And God has also given us the privilege to worship whomsoever or whatsoever man chooses to worship.

Our Study at this time will deal with "HOW WE WORSHIP" God. Two things are stated in John 4:24, we must worship in "TRUTH" and "SPIRIT." (With the right attitude). Since God is a Spirit, we must worship Him with our SPIRIT. Worship is NOT simply an outward fleshly conformity to a Law, such as THE LAW OF MOSES.

Those who worship God must do so in SPIRIT and in TRUTH. That is, the inner man (the Spiritual Man) MUST be involved. How may one know when they are truly worshipping God in Spirit? I will suggest 3 BASIC POINTS that we must consider, and this will help us to determine "HOW WE MAY KNOW."

I...THINGS THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE BEHIND!

1) THE MIND OF THE FLESH.

"... With the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:25, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down

imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every THOUGHT to the obedience to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4. "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall NOT fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:16-17.

2) THE ATTITUDE OF FACTION, OR FRICTION, OR DIVISION.

"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" 1 Corinthians 3:3. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Corinthians 1:10.

3) AN ARROGANT ATTITUDE

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." Luke 18:11. "My brethren, have not the faith of our

Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; and ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:1-10

4) A SPIRIT OF VISITATION or CONVERSATION (before Worship).

I am NOT against all conversation (Greetings, Learning of SICK, & so on). But a discussion of things totally unrelated to our PURPOSE for being in an assembly of the church to worship, is out of place. (If a blind person was brought into this building BEFORE the service began, and didn't know where they were; where would they think they were?)

5) A SPIRIT OF IMPATIENCE

This is demonstrated in many ways. First, by an unwillingness to wait until the service is over. Second, by bringing our personal "wants," without any regards to our "needs." When we assemble to worship God, sometimes we need to leave something at home (or at least, outside the building.)

I once read a story of a man who had a very stressful job, it was causing PROBLEMS in his home and in his family. He decided that he was going to START LEAVING HIS PROBLEMS outside when he came home; so he took an object that he used to represent his problems. Each day when he approached the door of his home, he would put that object (which was his problems) outside.

II... THINGS THAT WE SHOULD BRING WITH US

1) A SPIRIT OF GLADNESS

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1. "...I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalms 84:10. "For we...worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus..." Philippians 3:3. We should be Glad because Jesus has promised that He is with us when we assemble in His Name.

2) A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE

"The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." Habakkuk 2:20. "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18. We owe our deepest honor, respect, and devotion to our Lord!

3) A SPIRIT OF PARTICIPATION

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12. "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account

of himself to God." Romans 14:11-12. There are many who will NOT CONFESS Christ here, but they will ONE DAY, in the Judgment.

4) A SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 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 17:24-25. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6.

5) A SPIRIT OF FORGIVENESS

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5:23-24. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32.

6) A GIVING SPIRIT

"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; how that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for

God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Someone has said, "Our coming together, is for a greater purpose than, meeting and eating, or counting noses & nickles." They were surely right!

7) WHAT DO YOU TAKE WITH YOU WHEN YOU ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD?

III... THINGS WE SHOULD CARRY AWAY WITH US

1) A STRONGER FAITH

Every time we assemble, our Faith ought to grow. (Romans 10:17.) "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Hebrews 12:28. (ASV: "...To be feared above them that are round about him.")

"AWE" reverential FEAR, a sense of Profound Admiration and Respect. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." Psalms 89:7. As we worship God we have to feed our souls on SPIRITUAL FOOD, as we follow His Plan for our worship, and this OUGHT to make our Faith STRONGER.

2) A REVIVED SPIRIT

Psalms 85:6, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

3) A SPIRIT THAT MAKES LIFE MORE LIVEABLE.

Coming CLOSER to God in Worship ought to do this for us!

4) FOR SOME: A SAD SPIRIT.

Why do I say this? Because their life is NOT right with God! If this is your case, you need to realize that you are a sinner, and in danger of losing your soul, and that is no reason to be happy! It should cause you TO RESPOND TO THE LORD'S INVITATION. Matthew 11:28-30. "...Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:6-10.

When I am in the Pulpit, Bible Class, Home Bible Study, or on this Web Site, I am always going to do the very best I can to Teach God's Word and to Please God, NOT men. Because my salvation depends on my doing so. And I might add, that some of you may very well be Lost or Saved by how well I do my job. But a Lot of it Depends Directly upon how well you do! It depends upon your Attitude, Actions, or Re-Actions to what is taught.

Our TEXT describes what I think is an "IDEAL AUDIENCE." A group of Worshipers who wanted to PLEASE GOD.

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They were there for the PURPOSE of HEARING the Gospel preached. NOTICE: "ALL" were there. I realize that some are providentially hindered at times. But time after time, I have visited sick people and when I visited them, guess

where they wanted to be. If you said, "In their sick bed," you are WRONG! If you said, "Visiting Relatives," you are WRONG! If you said, "Shopping," you are WRONG! They expressed the desire to be IN WORSHIP. (Oh! how I miss coming to church. That is where they wanted to be!)

My POINT here is: IF all of us had the same attitude, we would be IDEAL WORSHIPERS, and "ALL WOULD BE HERE!" We have had friends VISIT in our home, and stay for the morning Worship, but the felt obligated to be at their Home Congregation on Sunday night. The reason: They had been taught and believed that it was their duty to be at home to worship each Lord's Day, and they did NOT WANT TO MISS.

The "gathering" in our Text was MORE than just Cornelius and his family. Verse 24 tells us, that

"Cornelius...had called his kinsmen and their friends." What a wonderful thing to do! Then in Verse 33 we are told, "Now therefore are all here, present before God." This may be one reason why other do not think Attendance at worship is NOT so important: because no member of the church has asked them to come! But church attendance is important because, Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

NOTICE: "...In My Name...." Question: Is Christ present in those groups that wear the name of some: Man (John the Baptist or Martin Luther); or some Country (Nazarene); of An Event (Pentecostal); of an Organization (Catholic); or some Method (Methodists)?

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6) "PRESENT BEFORE GOD"

This calls for Reverence on our part. That is Paying Honor and Respect to the Lord Jesus Christ. If we recognize that we are in the Presence of God then we will have Reverence for God.

7) "PRESENT...TO HEAR"

This is most important, "PRESENT TO HEAR." (Romans 10:17.) This means that we are not only Ready to Hear but that we are Ready to Accept and Obey the Truth of God. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1:19-20. "Take heed therefore how ye hear...." Luke 8:18. "Take heed what ye hear...." Mark 4:24. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1.

It goes without saying, some do NOT listen as they should. "...Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." James 1:21b-24. "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." Matthew 7:26.

These IDEAL WORSHIPERS "GATHERED TOGETHER TO HEAR THE WORD.

The words whereby Cornelius and his house could be saved. When Cornelius was told to send for Peter, he was also told: "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." Acts 11:14. So they gathered together to HEAR What To Do To BE SAVED; to have their SINS Forgiven; and to be Reconciled to God.

TO HEAR "ALL THINGS" THAT ARE COMMANDED OF GOD.

It is interesting, to me, that they were NOT INTERESTED in What the preacher thought, experienced, or believed. They were NOT interested in Denominational Doctrine. (There was not denominational doctrines at that time.) They were NOT looking for something that appealed to their emotions of something to make them feel good. And they were NOT looking to be entertained. They just Wanted to Know what GOD'S COMMANDS WERE. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO? Or, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THESE PEOPLE HEARD?

By Bro James W. Bowers, Jr.

Lesson on Worship

Course # 14

Lesson # 4

Ideal Worshippers

"Cornelius said, four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." Acts 10:30-33.

Acts Chapters 10 & 11, tell the story of the Conversion of Cornelius (the first Gentile convert to Christianity) and his household. WE FOCUS on the content of Verse 33, "Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." THE Scene here is one of a Preacher and his Audience.

1) EVERY CHURCH WANTS THE RIGHT PREACHER

(They should have him if at all possible.)

Think with me for a moment of the Requirements the Preacher must meet. He must be Faithful in Attendance. He must have a personal Commitment to Serve God and other people. He must have a certain Appeal to the church Leaders and Members. In many cases he will have spent years in Training and Preparation for his work. He will have had training and Knowledge of other fields of Study. Experience is desirable! On & on. These are NO MORE than anyone should expect.

But, in this LESSON, I don't want to discuss What It Takes To Make A Good Preacher, rather

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT, "WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IDEAL WORSHIPERS."

Of course in a church service, those who are in the PEWS are the Worshippers. And I do NOT want to talk about: What the Preacher and the Worshippers should do to please men; but What each should do to please God! After all, if either the Preacher or the Worshippers fail to please God, their worship will be Useless, Vain, and Void.

A preacher who does NOT please God, ought NOT be in the pulpit. And the only way he can please God is by Preaching His Word. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2. When Paul wrote

his First Epistle to Thessalonica, he reminded them of what Preachers were supposed to do.

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:4.

When I am in the Pulpit, Bible Class, Home Bible Study, or on this Web Site, I am always going to do the very best I can to Teach God's Word and the Please God, NOT men. Because my salvation depends on my doing so. And I might add, that some of you may very well be Lost or Saved by how well I do my job. But a Lot of it Depends Directly upon how well you do! It depends upon your Attitude, Actions, or Re-Actions to what is taught.

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7) WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THESE PEOPLE HEARD?

All of them obeyed the Gospel. I believe there is AN IMPLIED LESSON here. Even though Peter was an inspired Apostle, his preaching was simply the commands of God. They didn't QUESTION HIM, or MAKE EXCUSES, or HESITATE! They simply OBEYED THE GOSPEL.

WHAT DID THEY DO? As Peter re-tells the story, Acts 15:7, here is what he said, "And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe." He refers to this in Acts 11:18, "When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

After Peter preached to them, no doubt, they Believed, Repented and Confessed their FAITH IN CHRIST. "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...." Acts 10:48. When Peter was again reviewing this event, he said, "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Acts 15:11. It just stands to reason that this is what must be done today -- the exact same things that they did, because they responded to the Commands of God.

Surely the church today would have more Mature members, more Conversions, more Spiritual Growth: IF we had the SAME ATTITUDE as these people had.

Now, before someone get offended, (thinking I'm putting you down) let me say that IS NOT TRUE. What I am trying to do at this point is, to show: WHAT KIND OF PERSON WE OUGHT TO BE as we WORSHIP GOD. That is, we need to assemble IN the presence of God to Hear ALL THINGS THAT ARE COMMANDED OF GOD.

There is MORE INVOLVED in GOSPEL PREACHING than just the preacher. The worshippers (those hearing the preaching), have very much to do with whether it is SUCCESSFUL or NOT!

How do you hear when you assemble to Worship God? SALVATION is an INDIVIDUAL MATTER. (I cannot be saved for you, and can't you be saved for me). I can't OBEY THE GOSPEL for you, nor can you OBEY for me.

REMEMBER: Every time you assemble (or fail to assemble); You and you alone, DETERMINE whether your are WORSHIPING GOD acceptably or NOT.

8) CONCLUSION

NO DOUBT there are many who are like those in our Text. IF YOU ARE NOT! Will you FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE? Will you do your part to help make every assembly PLEASING TO THE LORD. He gave his life in order to give you this opportunity! Don't let Him down.

IF YOU REJECT HIM, HE DIED IN VAIN!

The Church Worships God In Spirit And In Truth

By Bro. James W. Bowers, Jr.

Lessons on Worship

Questions

Course #14

Worship (4 Lessons)

| L# | Q# | Question | Answers |
|----|----|---|---------|
| 1 | 1 | Jesus told the devil, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him _____ shalt thou serve." | |
| 1 | 2 | "But in _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." | |
| 1 | 3 | Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too _____. | |
| 1 | 4 | For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye _____ worship, him declare I unto you. | |
| 1 | 5 | "Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in _____ worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh." | |
| 1 | 6 | <i>"Keep back thy servant also from _____ sins; let them not have dominion over me:</i> | |
| 1 | 7 | "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in _____." | |
| 1 | 8 | And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty _____, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. | |
| 1 | 9 | <i>"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in _____ of me."</i> | |
| 1 | 10 | This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and _____ me with their lips; but their heart is far | |

| | | | |
|---|----|---|--|
| | | from me. But in _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. | |
| 1 | 11 | Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with _____ and godly fear: | |
| 1 | 12 | Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the _____, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. | |
| 1 | 13 | Not forsaking the _____ of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. | |
| 1 | 14 | <i>"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as _____."</i> | |
| 1 | 15 | <i>"But seek ye _____ the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."</i> | |
| 2 | 1 | Why was Jesus led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be _____ of Satan. | |
| 2 | 2 | Jesus responds to the devil's Temptation by saying, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him _____ shalt thou serve. | |
| 2 | 3 | If we worship Satan, there is only one thing that awaits us, _____. | |
| 2 | 4 | _____ is the Audience when we are worshiping. | |
| 2 | 5 | For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the _____. | |
| 2 | 6 | "I was _____ when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." | |

| | | | |
|---|----|--|--|
| 2 | 7 | Why is it wrong to miss worship services because we are not _____ the Elders | |
| 2 | 8 | "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the of them." | |
| 2 | 9 | That is doing the same things over and over, week after week, month after month, year after year, for a whole lifetime. Singing; Praying; Giving; Observing the Lord's Supper, and Studying God's Word. | |
| 2 | 10 | For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's _____ till he come. | |
| 2 | 11 | Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, _____, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. | |
| 2 | 12 | But let a man _____ himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. | |
| 3 | 1 | Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in _____ and in _____. | |
| 3 | 2 | Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the _____, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. | |
| 3 | 3 | "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and _____, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" | |
| 3 | 4 | We should be ready to worship in spirit of gladness. We should be _____ because Jesus has promised that He is with us when we assemble in His Name. | |
| 3 | 5 | Paul wrote to the Corinthians to let all things be done _____ and in order. | |
| 3 | 6 | We are to be spiritual during worship and try to grow as the early christians did below.. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with _____." | |

| | | | |
|---|----|---|--|
| 3 | 7 | "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with _____ let your requests be made known unto God." | |
| 3 | 8 | "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath _____ you." | |
| 3 | 9 | God loveth a _____ giver | |
| 3 | 10 | "I can do all things through Christ which _____ me." | |
| 3 | 11 | "Wilt thou not _____ us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" | |
| 3 | 12 | _____ yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." | |
| 3 | 13 | But church attendance is important because, Jesus said, "For where two or three are _____ gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." | |
| 3 | 14 | "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the of _____ God." | |
| 3 | 15 | "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and _____ them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." | |
| 3 | 16 | When Cornelius was told to send for Peter, he was also told: "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be _____." | |
| 3 | 17 | On the day of Pentecost when Peter was preaching to the multitude, what did the people do that received the word? | |
| 4 | 1 | Act_10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a _____ man, and one that feareth God, | |
| 4 | 2 | In a church service, those who are in the PEWS are the _____ | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 4 | 3 | Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and _____. | |
| 4 | 4 | "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am _____ the midst of them." | |
| 4 | 5 | "Take heed therefore how ye _____...." | |
| 4 | 6 | "Take heed ye _____ hear...." Mark 4:24. | |
| 4 | 7 | "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many _____ prophets are gone out into the world." | |
| 4 | 8 | "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and _____ them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." Matthew 7:26. | |
| 4 | 9 | IF YOU REJECT HIM, HE _____ IN VAIN! | |

End

By: Bro James W. Bowers, Jr.

Answers & References

Course #14

Lessons on Worship

| L# | Q# | Questions | Answers | Scriptures | Proof References |
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| 1 | 1 | Jesus told the devil, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him _____ shalt thou serve." | only | Matt 4:10 | Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. |
| 1 | 2 | "But in _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." | vain | Matt 15:9 | "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." |
| 1 | 3 | Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too _____. | superstitious | Acts 17:22 | Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious . |
| 1 | 4 | For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye _____ worship, him declare I unto you. | ignorantly | Acts 17:23 | For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. |
| 1 | 5 | "Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in _____ worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh." | will | Col 2:23 | "Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh." |
| 1 | 6 | <i>"Keep back thy servant also from _____ sins; let them not have dominion over me:</i> | <i>presumptuous</i> | Psa 19:13 | <i>"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me:</i> |
| 1 | 7 | "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in _____." | truth | John 4:24 | "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth ." |
| 1 | 8 | And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty _____, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. | wind | Acts 2:2 | And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. |
| 1 | 9 | <i>"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is</i> | <i>remembrance</i> | Luke | <i>"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them,</i> |

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| | | my body which is given for you: this do in _____ of me." | | 22:19 | saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." |
| 1 | 10 | This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and _____ me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. | honoureth & vain | Matt 15:8-9 | This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. Matt 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. |
| 1 | 11 | Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with _____ and godly fear: | reverence | Heb 12:28 | Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: |
| 1 | 12 | Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the _____, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. | flock | Acts 20:28 | Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock , over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. note: Since the Elders have the responsibility of watching for our souls then we have the responsibility of following their plans for us. |
| 1 | 13 | Not forsaking the _____ of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. | assembling | Heb 10:25 | Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. |
| 1 | 14 | "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as _____." | thyself | Luke 10:27 | "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." |
| 1 | 15 | "But seek ye _____ the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." | first | Matt 6:33 | "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." |
| 2 | 1 | Why was Jesus led into the wilderness by | Tempted | Matt 4:1 | Matt 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the |

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| | | the Holy Spirit to be _____ of Saten. | | | Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil |
| 2 | 2 | Jesus responds to the devil's Temptation by saying, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him _____shalt thou serve. | only | Matt 4:10 | Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. |
| 2 | 3 | If we worship Satan, there is only one thing that awaits us, _____. | Condemnation | Matt 4:10 | Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. |
| 2 | 4 | _____ is the Audience when we are worshiping. | God | Matt 18:20 | For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. |
| 2 | 5 | For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the _____. | heart | 1Sam 16:7 | But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. |
| 2 | 6 | "I was _____when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." | glad | Psa 122:1 | Psa 122:1 A Song of degrees of David. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. |
| 2 | 7 | Why is it wrong to miss worship services because we are not _____the Elders | obeying | Heb 13:7, 17 | Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. |
| 2 | 8 | "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the of them." | midst | Matt 18:20. | Matt 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. |
| 2 | 9 | That is doing the same things over and over, week after week, month after month, year after year, for a whole lifetime. Singing; Praying; Giving; Observing the Lord's Supper, and Studying God's Word. | Worshiping | Matt 26:26 | And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. Matt 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, |

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| | | | | | <p>saying, Drink ye all of it;</p> <p>Matt 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.</p> <p>Matt 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.</p> |
| 2 | 10 | For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's _____ till he come. | death | 1Cor 11:26 | For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. |
| 2 | 11 | Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, _____, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. | unworthily | 1Cor 11:27 | Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. |
| 2 | 12 | But let a man _____ himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. | examine | 1Cor 11:28 | But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. |
| 3 | 1 | John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in _____ and in _____. | spirit & truth | John 4:24 | God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. |
| 3 | 2 | Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the _____, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. | Spirit | Gal 5:16 | Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. |
| 3 | 3 | "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and _____, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" | divisions | 1 Cor 3:3. | "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" |
| 3 | 4 | We should be ready to worship in spirit of gladness. We should be _____ because Jesus has promised that He is with us when we assemble in His Name. | Glad | Phil 3:3. | For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. |
| 3 | 5 | Paul wrote to the Corinthians to let all things be done _____ and in order. | decently | 1Cor 14:40 | Let all things be done decently and in order. |
| 3 | 6 | We are to be spiritual during worship and try to grow as the early christians did | fear and trembling | Phil 2:12. | "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my |

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| | | below.. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with _____." | | | absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." |
| 3 | 7 | "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with _____ let your requests be made known unto God." | thanksgiving | Phil 4:6. | "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." |
| 3 | 8 | "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath _____ you." | forgiven | Eph 4:32 | "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." . |
| 3 | 9 | God loveth a _____ giver | cheerful | 2 Cor 9:6-7 | Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." |
| 3 | 10 | "I can do all things through Christ which _____ me." | strengtheneth | Phil 4:13 | "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." |
| 3 | 11 | "Wilt thou not _____ us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" | revive | Psa 85:6, | "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" |
| 3 | 12 | _____ yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." | Humble | Jam 4:6-10. | Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." |
| 3 | 13 | But church attendance is important because, Jesus said, "For where two or three are _____ gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." | gathered | Matt 18:20. | But church attendance is important because, Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." |
| 3 | 14 | "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the of _____ God." | righteousness | Jam 1:19-20. | "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." |
| 3 | 15 | "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and _____ them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his | doeth | Matt 7:26. | "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, |

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| | | house upon the sand." | | | which built his house upon the sand." |
| 3 | 16 | When Cornelius was told to send for Peter, he was also told: "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be _____." | saved | Acts 11:14. | When Cornelius was told to send for Peter, he was also told: "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." |
| 3 | 17 | On the day of Pentecost when Peter was preaching to the multitude, what did the people do that received the word? | Repented & baptized | Acts 2:37-38 | Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent , and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. |
| 4 | 1 | Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a _____ man, and one that feareth God, | just | Acts 10:22 | And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, |
| 4 | 2 | In a church service, those who are in the PEWS are the _____ | Worshippers. | | Of course in a church service, those who are in the PEWS are the Worshippers. |
| 4 | 3 | Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and _____. | doctrine | 2 Tim 4:2 | Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. |
| 4 | 4 | "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am ____ the midst of them." | In | Matt 18:20. | "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." |
| 4 | 5 | "Take heed therefore how ye _____...." | hear | Luke 8:18. | "Take heed therefore how ye hear...." |
| 4 | 6 | "Take heed ye ____hear...." Mark 4:24. | what | Mark 4:24. | "Take heed what ye hear...." |
| 4 | 7 | "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many _____prophets are gone out into the world." | false | 1 John 4:1 | "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." |
| 4 | 8 | "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and _____them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." Matt 7:26. | doeth | Matt 7:26. | "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." |

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| 4 | 9 | IF YOU REJECT HIM, HE _____ IN VAIN! | DIED | | IF YOU REJECT HIM, HE DIED IN VAIN! |
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End

By: Bro Jam W. Bowers, Jr.