

WHAT IS WORSHIP? PART 1

F. W. Newman Quotes “ It is useful to have spiritual teachers and if they be so wise, it is wise to learn from them, but no lesson is successful until the learner has gained an eye for seeing truth (confirming with the Word) and **believes no longer because of the teacher’s word, but because of the Holy Spirit.**”

- To love the Lord our God first and second to love our neighbor as ourselves
- Faith exercised
- Conversation between God and man
- Giving of our total selves
- Grateful response
- Honor
- Devotion
- Awesome wonder
- Overpowering love
- Our heart expression of love
- Magnify God with our whole being – body, soul and spirit
- Unashamed to proclaim his name
- Affectionate devotion.
- Extravagant love.
- Obedience to the Word of God
- Giving in praise and prayer
- Giving in finances
- Trusting in God for strength in times of trauma and calamity (Job)
- Putting my worship offering into the hands of God
- To bow down, to stoop, to prostrate oneself before God as an act of submission
- Reverence, to fall down, to make oneself low at the place of His feet.

Each act of life is an act of worship, when done with love that responds to the Father’s love. It is the eternal purpose of our calling, service, adoration and praise to God.

These definitions give insight into worship but somehow fall short. There is more, no one dimension can include all meanings.

Vines Concise Dictionary - The word “worship” shows that it is not confined to praise. Broadly - worship may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims.

1. By the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving.
2. By deed done in such acknowledgment. Acts 17:25 *therapeuo*, "to serve, do service to".

Worship (Verb and Noun), Worshiping verb, 4352, *Proskuneo* = "To make obeisance (to bow with respect), do reverence to" (from *pros*, "towards," and *kuneo*, "to kiss"), is the most frequent word rendered "to worship." It is used of an act of homage or reverence

John’s Revelation

Rev 1:1-3 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave John to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to John, who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.**

Background Info

Rev 1:9-19 John, now in exile was on the island of Patmos when on the Lord's Day he was in the Spirit, and heard a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." John saw someone "like a son of man His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. And when John saw him, he fell at his feet as though dead. Then He (Jesus) placed his right hand on John and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

Important

In each of the seven letters Jesus gives a warning about sin and we are exhorted to holiness. Jesus also gives a promise to those that remain firm (an act of worship) in their faith until the end. It is important that we understand that these letters were not only to the seven churches but also to every church in every generation. The seven churches are for us examples and the words written apply to churches everywhere – including our own. Within the seven letters are both warnings and encouragement, both the warnings and encouragement lead us into a picture **of what worship is and how worship should be.**

Jesus Shows John areas of strengths and weaknesses in the seven churches....

Jesus' Praise for their Strengths

- These are people most of whom have remained true to Jesus name, with love, faith, service and perseverance.
- Ephesus; Praised for their rejection of false teachings by false prophets (1 John 4:1) and they had not grown weary.
- Smyrna; They had not renounced their faith in tough times, they had not bowed to worship the Roman emperor as a god, suffered persecution, difficult to earn a living resulting in poverty but remained spiritually rich (Math 6:19-20; James 2:5).
- Pergamum; A citizen named Antipas was put to death because of his faith in Christ. Christ praised the church for their faith.
- Thyatira; who suffered persecution because they refused to worship the god of businesses.
- Philadelphia; kept Jesus command to endure patiently.

Yet the churches allowed areas of sin in their lives, and were not overcoming as they should.

Jesus' Accusation of Their Weaknesses

1. Ephesus had forsaken, turned their back on, abandoned their first love by being busy doing good works.
2. A few members of the church at Pergamum had allowed the teaching of Balaam (the eating of food sacrificed to idols and committing sexual immorality) (the leading of people to disobey God by false teaching) to come into their church, they were all guilty for not expelling the false teachers.
3. Thyatira tolerated false prophets (Jezebel) who taught that because idols were "nothing" it was therefore alright to worship them (1Cor 6:12-13,15; 8:4,7).
4. Sardis had a good reputation of being alive but in reality they were dead (full of apathy) their deeds were not complete in the sight of God. They had become so much like the surrounding society (conforming to the world) that it was no longer possible to distinguish between Christian and non-Christian, they did not want to oppose customs and traditions of the people. Their spirits had become weak – as good as dead (Ps 106:15). This accusation was the most severe.
5. Laodicea were neither cold or hot in their walk, they were luke-warm they had no fire of the Holy Spirit in them. They had no spiritual energy or enthusiasm and had left Christ out of their church. Also because of some of their riches they were not reliant or dependant upon God.

Jesus exhortation to the Seven Churches

1. Is for them to be faithful to Him and our walk even to the point of death.
2. To keep on pressing into Jesus, Jesus words "wake up" be ready to repent, make right your sins and refine your walk in the spirit, to hold on till His coming.
3. To remember what they have heard, obey and repent.
4. That they should "overcome" and He will make us pillars in the Temple of God and that we would get to eat at His table.
5. That we would accept and receive Christ in full measure, His fellowship, His love and His Spirit.
6. Jesus counsel is for them to return to a spiritual value system and not a world value system (refined in the fire) so they can become rich (spiritually); and have white clothes to wear (declared righteous), so they can cover their shameful nakedness; and salve to put on their eyes, so they can see their spiritual poverty and avoid being afflicted with various diseases or death sent to them as punishment for sin (Ps 62:12; Jer 17:10).
7. He says. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Endure patiently and you will be saved from Satan (Jn !7:15).
8. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Where does this leave us?

What do we get from these passages that would guide us in worship?

The Cross testifies of grace and tells of the Fathers Heart to make a way for us.

Jesus is knocking on the doors of our hearts seeking a much closer and more intimate fellowship with us.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- Our first love would be foremost in our lives, we must again do the works of our first love if we don't Christ will remove our lamp stand (our ministry).

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

- Our faithfulness to God, (Smyrna) remaining firm in God (to the point of death) during persecution and tough times.
- *Math 6:20....But lay up treasures in heaven....for where your treasure is there your heart will be also.*
- In terms of our walk we would be hot, and on form with a conscious daily effort.
- Our dependence, reliance and trust would be in God and not on our riches or our own strength.
- That we would be pillars in the Temple of God.
- To keep pressing on into Jesus, making Him a part of our every day life.
- Our value system would be spiritual rather than in the world.
- We would be a people of moral values.
- We would not tolerate false prophets and that we would test the spirits of the prophets.
- We would make an effort to refine our walk in the spirit.
- We would not be apathetic in our walk but would be pro-active in being complete and balanced Christians in the sight of God.
- We would refine our walk to make right our sin through repentance.
- We would remember what we have heard in the Word and be obedient to it.
- We would fear God. *Psa 22:23 You who fear the LORD , praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*
- We would develop a spiritual value system Rom 12:1-2 presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, not conforming to this world but transforming by the renewing of our mind.
- That we would be overcomers in everything in life that is thrown our way.
- The person who overcomes in the midst of all adversity (Thyatira).

Read Psalm 145 ... Each generation will celebrate Gods abundant goodness.

Think On This

The song "To Know You" by Casting Crowns. "To know you; is to **never give in to compromise**; is to want to tell the world about you; is to hear your voice when you are calling; is to catch my brother when he's falling; is to feel the pain of the broken hearted; is to ache for more than the ordinary; is to look beyond the temporary; is believing that You'll be enough; cause there's no life without You. More than my next breath, more than life or death, all I'm reaching for, I live my life, to know you more."

Food for thought! - When I play songs like this, I am touched / convicted by the words and challenged in my heart. Do I live out the lyrics I am singing, do I live out the Word of God, am I just a Christian Musician or am I a balanced Christian?

IN CLOSING

Read Psalm 96 ... Sing a new song ... Declare His glory.

Jesus is knocking on the doors of our hearts seeking a much closer and more intimate fellowship with us.

It is not my intention to provide answers or conclusions but to rather stimulate thought, consideration to our motives and searching of the Word. I would welcome biblical and personal points of interest towards music and the worship of our Lord Jesus. Feedback welcomed!

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