

Acceptable Worship **John 4:19-26**

Bible Instructs For Worship

From Cain and Abel's worship **Genesis 4**, to angel admonition for John to worship God **Revelation 22**, Bible instructs man in vital subject of worship.

"Worship," one form or another, appears approx. 200 times in Bible.

Importance seen in second controversy God had with His people was over worship - **Genesis 4:4-5**

Someone well said "most people do not enjoy coming, are late in arriving, early in leaving, and bored while there."

The Meaning Of Acceptable Worship

The origin of the word.

The English word "worship" derives from "worth-ship" and implies an expression of worthiness, honor, praise, or exaltation.

Someone said, "His worth-ship demands my worship."

English "worship" translates several Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek

Shachah, H7812 primary O.T. term translated as worship - to "prostrate oneself or to bow down."

- **Exodus 23:24; 2Kings 17:35-36**

Proskuneo, G4352 primary NT word, occurs 60 times - "to kiss toward one in token of reverence."

- **Acts 10:25; Matthew 4:9-10**

Batsell Barrett Baxter: "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."

There are several misconceptions relative to meaning of the word.

Many teach worship and service are same - all we do is worship.

Ervin Bishop said that worship "encompasses the worshipper's total life and relationship with God" Firm Foundation, March 1973, p. 7.

Jim McGuiggan wrote, "Worship is as broad as the Christian life." (doing homage, honoring.) Romans Comm., pp. 338-348.

All worship is service, but not all service is worship.

Distinguish between worshiping & serving - **Deuteronomy 11:16; Matthew 4:10**

Going to worship - not all life is worship - **Genesis 22:5; Acts 8:27**

Many today teach that worship of God is not defined in Scripture.

"worship of God is nowhere defined in scripture" Vine's, p. 1259

Given O. Blakely said, "Precisely where has God authorized any element of worship in any place at any time?" - **Leviticus 10:1-7**

God always defined worship He desires - **John 4:24; Hebrews 11:4; Matthew 2:2**

Greek denotes an act of reverence, whether to creature or Creator

Some define worship as an "existential moment," a "holy WOW." Rubel Shelly, 1991 - **Ezekiel 22:26**

The Mission Of Acceptable Worship

First, and foremost: to honor and magnify God - **Psalms 29:1-2; John 4:21-24**

Second: to draw nigh unto God - **Matthew 15:8-9; James 4:8**

Third: to strengthen and edify those that participate - **1Corinthians 14:26**

The Motives Of Acceptable Worship - Thankfulness for what He has done

Psalms 42:4; 95:2-3; Hebrews 13:15

Fear and reverence for His holy name - **Psalms 89:7; Revelation 15:4**

Desire to be in His presence - **Matthew 18:20; 26:29**

Desire to please our Creator - **John 4:23; Revelation 4:11**

Desire to obey the Lord fully - **Hebrews 10:25**

Love for Him - **John 14:15; 1John 4:19**

The Manner Of Acceptable Worship

Manner which we worship God is of supreme importance because:

Vain worship, will worship, & ignorant worship are condemned.

Sincerity must be joined with truth - **1Corinthians 5:7-8**

First thing church learned was how to worship God - **Acts 2:42**

Lord clearly outlined manner which God worshipped - **John 4:23-24**

Aim of worship is given – God - **Matthew 4:10**

Authority laid down – Truth - **John 17:17; Colossians 3:17; 1Peter 4:11**

Absolute of worship is pointed out – Must - **John 4:24**

Attribute of worship is stressed – Spirit - **John 4:24**

Attitude of worship is proclaimed – Joyful - **Psalms 122:1**

The Means Of Acceptable Worship

Acts 2-5

*Singing - **Ephesians 5:19**; Praying - **1Thessalonians 5:17**; Giving - **1Corinthians 16:2**; The Lord's Supper - **Acts 20:7**;*

*Preaching or Teaching - **2Timothy 4:1-2***

Must Worship God

Must make sure that we worship God in the way He has specified.

If don't worship God acceptably, might as well shut doors - **Malachi 1:10**

One day, God is going to root up those who do not worship him correctly - **Matthew 15:13**

May God give us strength to stand firm upon His word when many "making havoc of the church."

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