

**The Dynamics of True Worship**  
**October 5, 2014**  
By C. Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

**John 4:23-24**

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

Within these two verses of scripture lie the keys to true worship of our Great God and Savior.

Every Sunday morning we strap on our instruments, get in front of our microphones; I greet you and ask you this question:

I say, “Good morning, Lighthouse; are you ready to worship the Lord this morning?”

Your reply is almost always positive and your level of participation is usually good and improving.

What we do when we play the instruments and sing to the Lord is usually referred to as “praise and worship.”

Apparently this is considered ‘the worship’ for most people.

I Googled the top reasons that people choose and attend a particular Church.

In every poll and according to all opinions the music was a key factor in most peoples’ choice of a Church home.

It ranged from #2 to #12 depending on what denomination or what brand of Church was doing the survey of the ones I checked.

What was the most eye opening of these surveys was that in nearly every case the singing/music program was referred to as “the worship.”

Today we are going to take a serious look at what God says is true worship.

I have to believe that you really are here this morning to worship the Lord...and no, you haven’t been doing it all wrong.

There is, however, a lot more to true worship than most of us presently understand.

So, we are going to wade into this truly essential subject asking the Lord to reveal to us His true desire for our worship as He has revealed that desire in His Word.

We will not cover anything close to all the scriptures have to say about this; it would take us at least a couple of years to do that; however, we can see the framework of what true worship should be.

The Old Testament Hebrew word most translated to 'worship' is:

Hebrew: *shāchāh*

*shaw-khaw'*

A primitive root; to *depress*, that is, *prostrate* (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God): - bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

The New Testament Greek word most translated to 'worship' is:

Greek: *proskuneō*

*pros-koo-neh'-o*

From [G4314](#) and probably a derivative of [G2965](#) (meaning to *kiss*, like a dog *licking* his master's hand); to *fawn* or *crouch to*, that is, (literally or figuratively) *prostrate* oneself in homage (*do reverence to, adore*): - worship.

Diving right in to our subject; first we are going to look at:

## **I. The Priority of True Worship.**

*A. Our worship is the climax of all that we do for the Lord.*

1. Soul winning is our “main thing” in acts of service for the Lord, but most of that has a “go ye” in front of it.

2. **Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

3. **Matthew 28:19**

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

4. **Ephesians 3:21**

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

5. Worship can and should be the main thing we do to bring God glory when we assemble together here in the Church.

*B. Worship is not what it used to be; worship has evolved.*

1. When the promised Messiah came to this earth and fulfilled His mission by dying for our sins and rising again from the dead; the dynamics of worship for true believers changed forever!

2. Believers do not worship through animal sacrifices anymore; the true Lamb of God has now come.

3. **Hebrews 9:11-14**

- 11 But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;
- 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.
- 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:
- 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

4. **Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

5. **Hebrews 10:1** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

6. What we see and know and understand after the coming of the Messiah, as compared to

before, is like the difference in looking at a shadow and looking at what cast the shadow.

7. We worship on the first day of the week instead of the Saturday Sabbath in celebration of the resurrection; as we follow the example of the Judean Churches.

8. We follow the New Testament commands of Jesus, as we are no longer under the Old Testament Law.

9. **Matthew 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

10. Much of the Old Testament law is still in force; we are still commanded not to murder or covet or commit adultery or make and worship images and lots more; most of what has evolved applies to our worship.

*C. Our worship has been specifically expanded to equally include the Father and the Son.*

1. **John 5:18** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making **himself equal with God**.

2. Jesus is equal with God because Jesus IS God!

3. **John 5:22-23**

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That **all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father**. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.

4. When believers walk in fellowship with God we walk in fellowship with the Father and the Son.

### 5. **1John 1:3**

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

6. While driving last week, I saw a sign that said \_\_\_\_\_ Church of the Holy Spirit. (It is obvious that many religious leaders simply do not read their Bibles.)

7. It is in and through the Holy Spirit that God speaks to us and dwells in us; it is through the Spirit that we connect with the object of our worship which is the Father and the Son who are ONE.

Worship truly is and must continue to be our priority; who then are:

## **II. The Participants of True Worship.**

*A. Who are these true worshippers that we read about?*

### 1. **John 4:23-24**

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshipers** shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

2. There is much scripture that bears out the exact determination of who these true worshippers are; it suffices to say this morning that we have studied this thoroughly and have determined that true worshippers are those who are genuine born again believers; if you are saved you can be a true worshipper.

*B. The scriptures go on to tell us that true worship is participated in exclusively by true worshippers.*

1. The Bible tells us true believers how to prepare for worship; what we are to do as we get ready to come to Church.

2. In verse 25 of Hebrews 10, we see the subject of assembling ourselves together; the previous verses tell us how to prepare for it:

### **Hebrews 10:21-25**

21 And *having* a high priest over the house of God; [that's Jesus]

22 Let us draw near [the house of God] with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.



23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

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.

3. Only a true believer can have a **true heart**.

4. Only a true believer has **full assurance of faith**; only a believer knows he has trusted Jesus to save him and knows he is going to heaven!

5. Only a true believer can confess his sin to the Lord and receive a **heart sprinkled clean** in return.

6. Only a true believer has a true **profession of faith** in Jesus Christ.

7. We are glad for lost people to come to Church; we work hard to get them here because we want see them saved; however, the worship that goes on here is for Jesus and our heavenly Father and can only be truly participated in by true believers.

8. There is one thing that everybody can do even if you are not yet saved; we can all take a bath before we come to Church.

Then, there is:

### III. The Practice of True Worship.

*A. Did you come here this morning to worship the Lord?*

1. Are you sure you came to worship the Lord this morning?

2. Some of you are thinking, “What do you mean? Of course, I came to worship this morning!”

3. I am asking the question because ‘by-and-large’ most Christians, even pastors and leaders, seem to think that the worship is primarily the singing.

*B. The truth is that there are five formal acts of worship that we, as a Church, are commanded to practice every Sunday.*

(The writings of Dr. Hutson, who most of us know, as well as many other real scholars of theology, rightly point out and list these five formal acts of worship.)

They are (in no particular order):

1. Singing.

a. **Ephesians 5:18-19**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

b. **Colossians 3:16** 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.

## 2. Praying. (Corporate)

a. **Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

b. Speaking of the Church in verse 17;  
 Jesus said, **Matthew 18:19-20**  
 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.  
 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

## 3. Preaching.

a. **2Timothy 4:1-2**  
 1 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

b. If preaching is worship, how are you to participate?

c. Right; by listening and by responding.

#### 4. Giving.

a. **1Corinthians 16:2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, ...

b. **1Chronicles 16:29** Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

c. **Leviticus 27:30** And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD's: *it is* holy unto the LORD.

#### 5. The Lord's Supper.

a. This command was delivered to the Gentile Churches by the Apostle Paul.

b. **1Corinthians 11:23-25**  
25 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the

Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he broke *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.**

25 After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me.**

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

6. So let me ask you one more time; are you sure you came to worship this morning?

Finally, look with me at:

#### **IV. The Posture of True Worship.**

*A. One of the greatest single pictures of worship in the beauty of holiness (my opinion, of course) is given to us in Psalm 95.*

##### **1. Psalm 95:1-8**

1. O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

3 For the LORD *is* a great God, and a great King above all gods.

- 4 In his hand *are* the deep places of the earth:  
the strength of the hills *is* his also.
- 5 The sea *is* his, and he made it: and his  
hands formed the dry *land*.
- 6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us  
kneel before the LORD our maker.
- 7 For he *is* our God; and we *are* the people of  
his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today  
if ye will hear his voice,
- 8 Harden not your heart, ...

2. OK, here we go; the pastor is going to try to  
get us to kneel in worship again.

3. No, I'm not.

4. My job is to preach the Word and set the  
example.

*B. Jesus is my King!*

1. For as long as my knees still work I will bow  
before my King.

2. **Philippians 2:5-12**

- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in  
Christ Jesus:
- 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not  
robbery to be equal with God:
- 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took  
upon him the form of a servant, and was made  
in the likeness of men:
- 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he  
humbled himself, and became obedient unto  
death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 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.

3. I'm not going to fuss with you about it; you live out your salvation however you want to do it.

4. Satan's followers all bow before him.

5. Everyone will bow at the name of Jesus eventually; some choose to do it now.

#### 6. **Romans 14:11-12**

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every knee shall bow** to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

#### **In Conclusion:**

**“Pastor, I just believe that all those commands and examples of bowing down in the scriptures is more of a figurative**

**thing; that we ought to be bowing down in our hearts.”**

**Judging by our offerings, some of you believe that worshipping the Lord by giving is more of a figurative thing, too.**

**Hey, I’m done fussing with you about this!**

**If you don’t want to bend your knees, don’t bow down.**

**If you don’t want to sing, don’t sing.**

**If you don’t want to pray with us when we corporately pray, don’t pray.**

**If you don’t want to participate in the preaching, don’t. You can get up and leave after the singing; others have.**

**If you don’t want to tithe, don’t tithe; if you don’t want to give, don’t give.**

**If you don’t want to show the Lord’s death in the Lord’s Supper, don’t participate.**

**Anything you do for God, including all the forms of worship, must be done willingly, cheerfully, and from the heart...if it is not, it is not acceptable to God anyway.**

**I’m here to worship the Lord.**

**Why are you here this morning?**



**Wouldn't you like to become a true worshipper today?**

**Are you ready to place your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins?**