

# STONE HARBOR

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Dear Readers,

What follows is one man's weekly attempt to know the truth of God's Word and bring it to His people for their good and ultimately for His glory. Please regard these only as notes belonging to a busy pastor uploaded as they stand (for better or for worse, complete or incomplete, almost always with grammatical errors, and always with room for refinement in content, structure, presentation...) to support the ongoing study of God's Word. I firmly believe that the community of faith which is the body of Christ can and should bring their gifts to bear for the good of the rest of the body and that any one teacher can be taught by the others with an understanding of the truth. Therefore, should you have insight that would sharpen any of the thinking expressed here, know that I would be pleased to receive it. Clearly, the input that is most welcome and most helpful is that which is more concise than verbose, Biblically grounded and expressed with the goal of displacing misunderstanding and apprehending the truth of God's Word. Your thoughts of that nature are most welcome, certainly appreciated and will be thoughtfully considered. You are invited to send those insights to me at [johnny@stoneharborchurch.org](mailto:johnny@stoneharborchurch.org).

In pursuit of truth and growing a shepherd's heart,

Johnny

## *Transformation Card*

*This page provides an overview of the message and resources for individual and group study.*

Date: July 4th, 2010  
 Series: The Church of God's Intention  
 Part: Part 2 – What God Intends the Church to Do  
 Section: Worship  
 Topic: Worship  
 Message Title: **We Won't Worship God Unless...**  
 Outline Title:  
 Short Title: Worship  
 Text: Various  
 Key Words: Worship

### *Message Outline*

#### **God Intends the Church to Worship Him**

#### **But, We Won't Worship God Unless...**

- A. We Rightly **Recognize** God
- B. We Rightly **Understand** Ourselves in Christ
- C. We Rightly Understand Ourselves as in Christ **Together**
- D. We Rightly Regard the **Elements** of the Worship Service as **Our** Service of Worship to Him

### *Related Scripture*

1. Heb 12:22-29
2. Heb 10:19-25
3. Zc. 12:8; 14:20-21
4. Mi. 7:18-20
5. Ex 34:6; Jn 1:14, 17
6. 1 Cor 14:20-40
7. Col 2:16-23

### *Questions for Thought and Discussion*

1. What is worship?
2. What is a worshiper?
3. What prevents and promotes your worship during the week?
4. What prevents and promotes your worship at Sunday's Worship Service?
5. Who is responsible for the quality of your worship?
6. How can you worship God as He intended as a devoted son of His?
7. How can you worship God as He intended as a part of the body of Christ gathered?

### *Memory and Meditation Verse*

<sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our "God is a consuming fire." Heb 12:28-29 (NIV)

## 4. But, We Won't Worship Him Unless...

### a) We Rightly Recognize God

#### *(6) Listen to Some of the Scriptures that Reveal Who God Is*

##### (a) Anchor Scriptures

- Gen 1:1-3 -- <sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light...
- Gen 1:26-28 -- <sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup>God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- John 1:1-5, 14 -- <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup>The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Is 59:2 -- <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.
- Is 59:1 -- <sup>1</sup>Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.
- Gen 3:15 (God to Satan) -- <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her seed**; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
- Gen 12:1-3 -- <sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup>And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
- Gen 18:13-14 -- <sup>13</sup>And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' <sup>14</sup>"Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and **Sarah will have a son.**"

- Gen 21:1-3 -- <sup>1</sup>Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. <sup>2</sup>So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.
- Exodus 4:22-23 -- <sup>22</sup>"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn. <sup>23</sup>"So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"
- **Exodus 6:6** -- <sup>6</sup>"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.
- **2 Samuel 7:12-19** -- <sup>12</sup>"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>"I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup>but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>"Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.'"<sup>17</sup>In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. <sup>18</sup>Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD, and he said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far? <sup>19</sup>"And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord GOD, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant concerning the distant future And this is the custom of man, O Lord GOD.
- **Isaiah 7:14** -- <sup>14</sup>"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.
- **Isaiah 9:6-7** -- <sup>6</sup>For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.
- **Matthew 1:18-23** -- <sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. <sup>20</sup>But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>Now all this took place to fulfill what was

spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

- **Galatians 3:7-14** -- <sup>7</sup>Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." <sup>9</sup>So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. <sup>10</sup>For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." <sup>11</sup>Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." <sup>12</sup>However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." <sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- <sup>14</sup>in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- **Galatians 3:26** -- <sup>26</sup>For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- [Deuteronomy 4:24](#) -- "For the LORD your **God is** a consuming fire, a jealous God.
- [Deuteronomy 4:31](#) -- "For the LORD your **God is** a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.
- [Deuteronomy 7:21](#) -- "You shall not dread them, for the LORD your **God is** in your midst, a great and awesome God.
- [Deuteronomy 10:17](#)  
" For the LORD your **God is** the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.
- [Joshua 23:3](#)  
"And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your **God is** He who has been fighting for you.
- [John 3:33](#) -- "He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that **God is** true.
- [John 4:24](#) "**God is** spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- [Acts 10:34](#) -- [ *Gentiles Hear Good News* ] Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that **God is** not one to show partiality,

- [Romans 8:33](#) -- Who will bring a charge against God's elect? **God is** the one who justifies;
- [1 Corinthians 1:9](#)  
**God is** faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- [1 Corinthians 14:33](#) -- for **God is** not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
- [2 Corinthians 9:8](#) -- And **God is** able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
- [Galatians 6:7](#) -- Do not be deceived, **God is** not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
- [Hebrews 11:19](#) -- He considered that **God is** able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.
- [Hebrews 12:29](#) -- for our **God is** a consuming fire.
- [James 4:6](#) -- But He gives a greater grace Therefore it says, " **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**"
- [1 John 1:5](#) -- [ *God Is Light* ] This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is** Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
- "God is love" (1 John 4:8,16)
- [Revelation 21:3](#) -- And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of **God is** among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them ,

### *(7) Understand What these Scriptures Reveal about God*

#### **(a) The triune God is the great Creator of all that is.**

- Including you and me uniquely in His image and likeness

#### **(b) God is also our sure Redeemer**

- Our ancestors sin separated all of us from God and set His creation upside-down (Gen 3, Rom 3:23)
- Yet His hand is not so short that He can not save (Is 59:1-2)
- He promised to save us from our estrangement from Him (Gen 3:15) and from His just judgment upon our guilt and further to reverse the curse that still causes our bodies and the earth to groan waiting for redemption (Rom 8:22-23; 2 Cor 5:2-4).

- He promised to reverse the curse and restore us to fellowship with Him through a descendent of Abraham (12:1-3; 15:1-6; 17:1-8; 18:9-14; 21:1-3), more precisely He revealed that the seed of the woman would be a son of David, a king-priest who would rule FOREVER (2 Sam 7). And somehow at the same time that seed would be Himself, He would save His people.
- Yet, while the natural world and these bodies of flesh groan, He has kept his promise to redeem us by sending the seed of the woman, the descendent of Abraham, a descendent of David and at the same time this Savior is God Himself, the perfect sacrifice to atone for our sins – This savior is God's one and only Son Jesus the Christ/Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of all who God will call to Himself.
- Even now the distance that separated us has been removed. God has come to us in Christ – Jesus was Immanuel, God with us! And the Holy Spirit that He sent from heaven into our hearts is God in us!! We who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ and His indwelling Spirit (Eph 2:13)!
- We have much to celebrate today!

***(8) Let Us Let the Nature of God Naturally Call Forth Our Worship***

[1 Chronicles 16:29](#) -- Ascribe to the LORD the **glory due His name**; Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship the LORD in holy array.

We are worshipping our worthy God as we listen to His word and remember who He is.

What have we done to worship? With the song by Matt Redmond I must say, "Lord, I'm sorry for the thing I have made it." My wandering and disengaged mind thinks about so many earthly things even during a worship service when heaven has broken in. Lord, God, make us worshippers who worship you in Spirit and in Truth!

But we won't worship our God as He intends unless we recognize Him for who He is. Worship is a human response to the God who has created and saved us. So we also won't worship God unless...

**b) We Rightly Understand Ourselves in Christ**

***(6) Listen to Some of the Scriptures that Reveal Who Each of Us is in Christ***

**(a) Anchor Scriptures**

- **Romans 8:1** -- <sup>1</sup>Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- **Romans 8:38-39** -- <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **1 Corinthians 1:30** -- <sup>30</sup>But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-19** -- <sup>17</sup>Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. <sup>18</sup>Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup>namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
- **Galatians 3:26** -- <sup>26</sup>For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- **Ephesians 1:3** -- <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
- **Ephesians 2:1-6** -- <sup>1</sup>And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- **Colossians 1:28** -- <sup>28</sup>We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

***(7) Understand What These Scriptures Reveal About Who We Are in Christ***

- We were once separated from God, but now, in Christ, we are no longer separated, we are near, even joined to God by virtue of His indwelling Spirit. And nothing can separate us from Him and His love.
- We formerly faced God's just condemnation, but now, in Christ, we face no condemnation.
- We were dead, spiritually dead; living, but living a life that was no life at all by God's definition of the life He intended. But now, in

Christ, we have been given new life! Real life. Life in intimate communion with God.

- We are new creations and citizens of heaven...

***(8) Let Us Let the Nature of Who We are in Christ Naturally Call Forth Our Worship***

**Revelation 5:12** -- ... "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

We won't worship God the way He intends if we do not know who He is and if we don't know who we are in Christ. Thirdly, we won't worship God the way He intends in services like this unless...

**c) We Rightly Regard Ourselves as in Christ Together**

***(6) Listen to Some of the Scriptures that Reveal Who We Are Together as the Body of Christ***

**(a) Anchor Scriptures**

- **Galatians 3:28** -- <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- **1 Peter 2:4-5** -- <sup>4</sup>And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- **1 Cor 12:** -- <sup>7</sup>But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... <sup>12</sup>For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup>For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup>For the body is not one member, but many. ... <sup>24</sup>... But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, <sup>25</sup>so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.
- **Ephesians 4:1-7** -- <sup>1</sup>Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup>being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- **Ephesians 4:11-16** -- <sup>11</sup>And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of

the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- **Hebrews 10:19-25** -- <sup>19</sup>Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- **Hebrews 12:28-29** -- <sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire.

***(7) Understand What These Scriptures Reveal About Who We Are Together in Christ***

- We are members of the body of Christ of which He is the head.
- We are not to live as disconnected individuals
- We are to live as an integrated organism each part serving the others with the gifts God has entrusted into our care
- We are to love one another, even prefer one another.

***(8) Let Us Let the Nature of Who We Are Together Naturally Call Forth Our Worship***

Revelation 15:3-4 -- <sup>3</sup>And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works,

O Lord God, the Almighty;  
Righteous and true are Your ways,  
King of the nations!

<sup>4</sup>"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy;  
For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE  
YOU,

FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

Lastly, we won't worship God the way He intends in services like this unless...

**d) We Rightly Regard the Elements of Sunday's Worship Service as Our Service of Worship to Him**

***(6) We Worship God in Reading His Word***

- (a) Listening to Him w/o Interruption**
- (b) Like Listening to a Congressional Call to Arms**
  - (i) Declaration of Independence**
- (c) Here is the situation and here is what we must do... Stand with Me?**

***(7) We Worship God in Praying His Word***

- (a) Responding to Him**
- (b) Like Reflective Listening – Repeating back what He said in our own words**
- (c) We will respond according to the reality you have laid out**

***(8) We Worship God in the Preaching of His Word***

- (a) Listening to His Message Explained by a Loyalist**
- (b) Like a General briefing his officers**
- (c) The President and the congress has called us to arms. Our first objective is this hill not that one and here is how the President expects us to take it...**

***(9) We Worship God in Seeing & Demonstrating His Word***

- (a) Communion / Lord's Supper**
- (b) Remembering with natural elements that help us understand spiritual realities**
- (c) Participating in a reenactment of the pivotal battle that won the war that we might not forget but live in constant awareness that**

***(10) We Worship God in Singing His Word***

- (a) Purpose of singing as worship: same as with reading, praying, and preaching but singing with music seems to stir the deepest part of us and allows the truths of Scripture about which we sing to lodge deeply within our hearts and to come forth in heartfelt expressions of praise and worship.**

**(b) This is like the Battle Hymn of the Republic that gave Civil War troops inspiration.**

**(c) As we worship by singing the word now, let's do so as an act of worship to our worthy God.**

(i) This is not singing catchy tunes

(ii) This is telling God we understand who He is and who we are in Christ and who we are together.

(iii) Let's sing. Better, let's worship in song! Better yet, let's worship the God of the Scriptures in songs informed by the Scriptures.

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