

\*\*Am I here to worship?  
I Chronicles 16:8 – 36

\*\*8 - Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His Name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.

\*\*9 - Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders.

\*\*10 - Glory in His holy Name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

\*\*11 - Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually.

\*\*12 - Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done, His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,

\*\*23 - Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.

\*\*24 - Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

\*\*25 - For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods.

\*\*26 - For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
But the LORD made the heavens.

\*\*27 - Splendor and majesty are before Him,  
Strength and joy are in His place.

\*\*28 - Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the  
peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and  
strength.

\*\*1 Chronicles 16:29

Give to the Lord the glory He deserves!  
Bring your offering and come to worship Him.  
Worship the Lord in all His Holy Splendor.  
- New Living Translation

\*\*1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever  
-- New Living Translation

\*\*35 - Then say, "Save us, O God of our  
salvation, And gather us and deliver us from the  
nations, To give thanks to Your Holy Name, And  
glory in Your praise."

\*\*36 - Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all  
the people said, "Amen," and praised the LORD.

The question of the hour is this:  
\*\*“Am I here to worship?”

The question is not:  
“Am I here in church?” That is obvious.

The question is not:  
“Am I here to sing the songs I like?”

or,  
”Am I here to see my friends?”

The question is not:  
“Am I here to put in my time?” (Bars on the windows)

The question is:  
“Am I here to worship?”

Before you give the Sunday school answer, let's be sure we understand the question.

\*\*Like many other words, “worship” has been redefined by the modern culture of the church.

What do I mean?

We have substituted “activity” for ministry and “programs” for vision. We need more “youth activities” so our kids will be “ministered to”.

If we can come up with a new “program” more people from the community will come to our church.

Words have meaning. The problem is that the meaning changes. What you say and what people hear are many times vastly different.

Josh McDowell makes these comparisons:

When you, Mom and Dad, talk about “moral judgements”, you are saying that certain things are morally right and wrong as determined by God.

The “Post-modern/emergent” Culture says that we have no right to judge another person’s views or behavior.

When you, Mom and Dad, talk about “freedom”, you are saying that you are free to do what you know you ought to do.

The “Post-modern/emergent” Culture says that “freedom” means I can do anything I want to do.

When you use the word “truth” you are referring to an absolute standard of right and wrong.

The “Post-modern/emergent” Culture says “truth” is whatever is right for you.

\*\*“Worship” is now used to define the parameters of a church service or even a specific segment of a church service.

For example: “why, yes, I did *attend worship* today.”

Or, “My, wasn’t that really *good worship* today!”

“The worship really moved me.”

Or, “did you think *the worship* went a little long this morning?”

This is very typical of our self-centered society and our self-centered church.

“No, I really didn’t get anything out of *the worship* this morning.”

What does the Bible have to say about worship? You see it doesn’t really matter what the world has to say, or what society says, or even what the church says about worship.

The meaning of the word in the original Hebrew and Greek texts is difficult to translate. The chosen English word literally means to \*\*“create honor” and in this context, it obviously means to create honor toward God – not ourselves!

The Hebrew word is interesting and, unfortunately, lost to the modern mind.

\*\*In the Old Testament sense, to worship means “to depress, to prostrate, to bow oneself down, to fall flat, to humbly beseech.”

Did the “worship” go too long or did it even get started?

When is the last time you even practiced “Old Testament Worship?”

Ever?

“Well,” you say, “I’m not going to adhere to some Old Testament standard and lie down on the floor! I’m a New Testament Christian!”

Ok, here is the New Testament Greek meaning of the word:

\*\*“to kiss like a dog licking his master’s hand; to fawn or to crouch; to prostrate oneself in homage.”

Simple. Take your pick.

The cultural meaning of this glorious term, like many Bible terms, has been lost to the modern church.

\*\*In Middle Eastern culture, the appropriate greeting when coming together or meeting together is determined by rank.

Persons of equal rank kiss each other on the lips. When the difference of rank is slight, they kiss each other on the cheek.

When one is much inferior, he falls upon his knees and touches his forehead to the ground or prostrates himself, throwing kisses at the same time toward the superior.

It is this last example that is found in our New Testament Greek translations.

When your attitude is that you are simply “going to church”,

\*\*is it any wonder that our “worship” has had to be redefined?

\*\*What is your attitude toward God when you approach Him?

Have you come to worship?

Rather than coming humbly into the presence of the Almighty, we \*\*have the audacity to approach God as an equal!

This ought to break the heart of anyone who truly wants to be in a relationship with God.

This ought to break the heart of anyone who truly wants to “worship”.

“If we have never had the experience of taking our commonplace religious shoes off our commonplace religious feet, and getting rid of all the undue familiarity with which we approach God, it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence.” (OC)

In our modern society, and, unfortunately in the modern church, the initial reaction is: “Hey, I’m not licking ANYONE’S hand like a dog!”

How do you feel about worship?

Let’s look at several New Testament examples:  
Luke’s Gospel, chapter 7, verse

\*\*:<sup>37</sup> - And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner (a prostitute [LB]); and when she learned that [Jesus] was reclining {at the table} in the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,

\*\*:<sup>38</sup> - Going in, she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping, with her tears falling down upon his feet; and she wiped them off with her hair and kissed them and poured the perfume on them.

How about washing the feet of Jesus with your tears, wiping them with your hair and kissing His feet?

\*\*Look at what the Disciples did in Matthew 28:9  
- And as they [the Disciples] were running,  
suddenly Jesus was there in front of them!  
`Good morning!" He said. And they fell to the  
ground before him, holding His feet and  
worshiping Him. -- Living Bible

They are in the Presence of the Resurrected  
Christ!

They had spent 3 and a half years with Him, but  
do they greet Him as an equal?

No! They fell to the ground before Him!

You can't hold His feet if you approach Jesus as  
an equal.

Well, that's just the Disciples.

You think?

How about another example?

Cornelius. Acts chapter 10. Remember him?

He was the commander of the entire Italian  
Regiment.

He was the "Big gun", large and in charge.

**\*\*But, in Acts 10:25 - When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped {him.}**

Here is a guy who has thousands of armed soldiers at his command and he greets Peter, an uneducated fisherman, as his superior!

Peter knew better, :26 - But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am {just} a man."

How will you approach Jesus?

The Apostle John was so overwhelmed by what was happening to him on the Isle of Patmos that when he saw the messenger of God he **\*\*wrote** in Revelation 19:10 - Then I fell down at his feet *to worship him*, but he said, "No, don't *worship me*. For I am a servant of God, just like you...(You can greet me as an equal.) *Worship God*."

If we have really come to worship, the attitude of our hearts must be one of total submission. We have nothing to offer God except our devotion and obedience.

Yes, we can sing and praise, but if all we are doing is trying to make ourselves feel better, we have not come to worship.

You can tell that I love music as well as most and more than some, but the music is not worship!

I love to preach, but the message is not worship!

I enjoy the good feelings of being in the presence of Jesus and spending time with His people, but is that Biblical worship?

Did I come just to get a warm, fuzzy feeling?

I can go to a Mexican restaurant for that.

The Apostle Paul felt very strongly about this issue of Worship, too. This is what he wrote to the Romans -

**\*\*Romans 12:1** So, brothers, with God's tender feelings, I beg you to offer your bodies as a living, holy, pleasing sacrifice to God. *This is true worship from you.* -- International English

Did you ever consider just how you might respond if God REALLY SHOWED UP in our church service?

What would you do if the back doors swung open and JESUS WALKED IN!

Unfortunately, for many of you, the first thought through your head just now was, "yeah, but He won't..."

We sing the words at Christmas, but do you even notice them?

We might be wise to start singing this throughout the year:

“Saints before the altar bending *watching long* in hope and fear (reverence).

SUDDENLY, THE LORD DESCENDING,  
in His Temple will appear!”

Did you ever consider how God might feel?

Would He even accept what our feeble minds call worship?

Not according to Isaiah.

Isaiah 29:13 - And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. And *\*\*their worship of me amounts to nothing* more than human laws learned by rote. -- New Living Translation

“...Learned by rote.” That is a pretty apt description of what I see week after week in many of the churches I attend.

We meet at the same time and do the same opening and sing the same songs and maintain the same order of service and hear the same message and greet the same people and go to the same place to eat and it is the same as any other Sunday.

How should we Worship?

I think the greatest description of worship to be found in the Bible is found in Isaiah chapter 6:

\*\*:<sup>1</sup> – [In] The year King Uzziah died I saw the Lord! He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the Temple was filled with his glory.

:<sup>2</sup> - Hovering about him were mighty, six-winged angels of fire. With two of their wings they covered their faces; with two others they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

:<sup>3</sup> - In a great antiphonal chorus they sang, ``Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is filled with His Glory."''

:<sup>4</sup> - Such singing it was! It shook the Temple to its foundations, and suddenly the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke.

\*\*5 - Then I said, ``My doom is sealed, for I am a foul-mouthed sinner, a member of a sinful, foul-mouthed race; and I have looked upon the King, the Lord of heaven's armies."

Did Isaiah approach God as an equal?

\*\*Have you come to worship?

“Dear God, forgive me for my impertinence! Help me to see my deep need! Forgive me, Lord, for thinking this has anything at all to do with me. I’m sorry, Lord, for the thing I’ve made it – it’s all about You!”

If is really your desire to worship – not just show up at church,

\*\*1 Chronicles 16:35 - Then say, "Save [me], O God of [my] salvation, And gather [me] and deliver [me]..., [let me] give thanks to Your Holy Name, And glory in Your praise."

“Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the Newborn King!”