

WORSHIP

I. Biblical words for "worship"

- A. Hebrew word *shachah* - "bowing down before an object of honor"
Neh. 8:6 - Israelites "bowed low and worshipped the Lord"
Ps. 95:6 - "let us worship and bow down"
- B. Hebrew word *abad* - "service or work for God"
Deut. 6:13 - "fear the Lord your God and worship Him"
Ps. 2:11 - "Worship the Lord with reverence"
- C. Hebrew word *segid* - "showing respect" or "doing homage"
Dan. 3:5-18 - "worship the golden image"
- D. Greek words *gonu* and *gonupeteo* - "bending the knee"
Eph. 3:14 - "bow my knees before the Father"
Phil. 2:10 - "every knee should bow at the name of Jesus"
- E. Greek words *sebo* and *eusebeo* derived from *sebas* - "fear or reverence"
Acts 18:13 - "worship God contrary to the law"
Acts 17:23 - "worshipped in ignorance"
- F. Greek word *proskuneo*, derived from *pros*, "toward" and *kuneo*, "to kiss"
Matt. 4:10 - "You shall worship the Lord your God"
John 4:24 - "worship Him in spirit and truth"
- G. Greek word *latreuo*, derived from *latris* - "servant"
Rom. 12:1 - "spiritual service or worship"
Phil. 3:3 - "worship in the Spirit of God"
- H. Greek word *leitourgeo*, derived from *laos*, "people", and *ergeo*, "to work"
Acts 13:2 - "ministering to the Lord"
II Cor. 9:12 - "ministry of service"
- I. Greek word *therapeuo* - "to heal"
Acts 17:25 - "God not worshipped by human hands" (KJV)
- J. English word "worship" derived from old Anglo-Saxon *weorthscipe*, meaning "worth-ship"

II. General concept of worship

- A. Honor, respect, devotion, reverence, veneration, adoration or admiration toward an object of value, worth or esteem
- B. Man seems to have an innate God-given need, drive or desire to thus recognize something or someone beyond himself.
- C. The objects of value, worth or esteem which have been accorded worship
 1. Natural objects - sun, moon, stars, mountains, waters, etc.
 2. Constructed images - idols, icons. cf. Acts 17:22; I Cor. 10:20
 3. Human intelligence, creativity, productivity - Rom. 1:25
 4. Material objects - real estate, automobiles, stocks, bonds, etc.
 5. Persons - hero worship, athletes, musicians, politicians
 6. Associations - fraternities, sororities, societies, churches

III. Religious concepts of worship

- A. Religion is etymologically based on being "bound" or "tied" in devotion to a particular object.
- B. Anthropocentric objects of man's personal concerns
 1. Activity oriented worship - we come, we sing, we pray, we listen, we give, we serve

2. Emotion-oriented worship - makes us feel good. Mood-altering
 3. Intellect-oriented worship - how we think. Belief-system, ideology
 4. Benefit-oriented worship - do we get strength, patience, energy or blessings?
- C. Event centered worship
1. Time of worship -
 - a. Jewish Sabbath - Day of rest
 - b. Christian Sunday
 2. Place of worship
 - a. Jewish tabernacle and temple
 - b. Christian church buildings
 3. Procedures of worship
 - a. Rituals, liturgy, programs, art forms, productions

IV. Christian concept of worship

- A. Christ-centered worship. Christianity is Christ, so Christian worship must be Christ in action.
- B. Jesus Christ is our High Priest and worship leader - Heb. 2:17; 8:1,2;9:11-14
- C. Jesus Christ is the subject and object of Christian worship
- D. Jesus Christ expresses "worth-ship" of God's character in our behavior
 1. Such worship is a total life reality
 - a. Not limited by specified times
 - b. Not limited by procedures and form and patterns
 - c. Not limited by geographical location and buildings
 2. Christian worship is activated by God's grace
 - a. Unique expression in each individual
 - b. Spontaneous expression of God's characterP
- E. Christian's responsibility for worship
 1. Not man's effort - Acts 17:25
 2. Faith - our receptivity of God's activity of expressing His all-glorious character.