

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Psalm 95:1-7a

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Elephant and the Blind Men.
- B. Different people have different ideas about worship.
 - 1. Preference of traditional hymns to contemporary (praise) songs.
 - 2. Hymns 50 years old vs. songs less than 5 years old.
- C. Purpose of the church to evangelize, edify and serve.
 - 1. Must be about preaching the gospel to the lost.
 - 2. Must be teaching the saved to grow in Christ.
 - 3. Must be involved in helping those who are hurting.
- D. Worship is the force that drives us.
 - 1. Unless we stand in awe of God, everything else an exercise in weariness.
 - 2. If we do not understand and practice genuine worship, we will never have God's passion for His work.
 - 3. Worship comes first.

I. WHAT WORSHIP IS NOT.

- A. Worship is not just a service. Isaiah 29:13.
 - 1. Their religion had become worthless.
 - 2. Worship was routine rather than real.
 - 3. Lit., "...*their reverence for Me consists of commandments of men having been taught.*"
- B. It does not just happen because we sing hymns. Singing does not guarantee worship.
- C. It is not a performance. Too often we see ourselves as an audience and those leading as performers. All of us perform to an audience of ONE.
- D. It is not just a feeling. Worship is emotional, but emotion does not guarantee worship.
 - 1. Jer. 17:9, "*The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick;...*"

II. SO, WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- A. Definition of Worship.
 - 1. Anglo-Saxon word *worthscripe*, indicating an object of worthiness or respect.
 - 2. In its most basic sense, worship means "*to declare worth or worthiness.*"
 - 3. Webster: *reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power; also: an act of expressing such reverence.*
- B. Biblical definitions.
 - 1. Three primary words for worship found in the O.T.
 - a. *Shachah* (*shaw-haw*), to worship, prostrate oneself, bow down.
 - b. The term most used in the O.T. for coming before God in worship, Ex. 34:8.
 - 2. Six primary words are used in the N.T.
 - a. *Proskuneo*, "to make obeisance," "do reverence to," or "worship."
 - b. Most frequently used word in N.T. – used 60 times, Jn. 4:20-24.
- C. Working definition of worship.
 - 1. A response to what God has already begun.
 - a. Romans 12:1 – spiritual service of worship.
 - b. John 4:23
 - c. If the response does not come from the heart, we have not worshiped at all.

2. God intends to be first above all.
 - a. Luke 14:26-27
 - b. Mark 12:30, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.*”
 - c. 1 Cor. 13:1
 - d. If our worship does not arise out of our love for God, our singing is just noise.

III. WE WORSHIP GOD BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

- A. Praise is a response to **what** God does, Jn. 9:38 (blind man to see).
- B. Worship is a response to **who** God is.
 1. We worship Him because He is God, 1 Tim. 1:12-17.
 2. Psalm 95:1, 3, 5-7. Tells us who God is.
 3. God revealed Himself through Jesus.
 - a. Matthew 1:23
 - b. Hebrews 1:3, true brightness of His glory...
 - c. Acts 20:28 – the church purchased with His blood.
- C. God alone is worthy of our worship, Ex. 20:3-6; Rev. 22:9.
 1. Ex. 20:3-6, “*You shall have no other gods before Me; You shall not make for yourself an idol (graven image); You shall not worship them or serve them...*”
 2. Rev. 22:9 – [John bowing to angel].

IV. WE WORSHIP GOD BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE.

- A. We are His people, Psalm 95:7. “*For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.*”
- B. We are subjects, He is the King, Ps. 95:3. “*For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.*”
- C. We are clay, He is the Potter, Rom. 9:20-21.
- D. We are creatures, He is the Creator, Eccl. 12:1. “*Remember also your Creator I the days of your youth,...*”
- E. We are servants, He is the Master, Mt. 10:24-25.
- F. We are the branches, He is the Vine, Jn. 15:5. “*I am the vine, you are the branches;...*”
- G. We are His possessions, He is the Owner, Isaiah 43:1. “*But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He formed you, O Israel, Do not fear, for I have redeemed you by name; you are Mine!*”...”
- H. We are inscribed upon His hands, Isaiah 49:16. “*Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.*”

CLOSING

- A. Worship is for God alone, not for us.
- B. When we leave the assembly:
 1. Did I honor You today?
 2. Did I let you now I love You above all?
 3. Did I please You?

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