

LESSON 6: WORSHIP AND ITS IMPORTANCE

1. Man, throughout his long history, has desired to worship someone or something greater than himself. He is naturally a worshipful being. When man is uncommitted to God or some higher cause they feel insecure and incomplete. The psalmist states the call to worship aptly in Psalms 95:6,7 – “O come, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand...”

2. In Lesson 1, you learned that worship is one of the things that sustain the “babe in Christ” in the service of God. Through worship one is drawn closer to God, edified and motivated toward greater consecration and dedication.

(Question):

A. Worship will draw you closer to God, edify and motivate. **True or False**

3. What is worship? Webster defines it as “reverence rendered to a divine being or supernatural power.” Thus, through worship we reverence God who created the earth and all things therein and showed his grace in the giving of His Son that we might be saved.

(Question):

A. Worship is reverence to God. **True or False**

4. If Christians – both young and old, realized the benefits that accrue from worshipping God, there would be little cause from admonition concerning neglect of the services. Worship is to Christians what payday is to workers. Few would miss “payday”, yet many will miss worship at the drop of a hat.

(Question):

A. Worship is like payday for the Christian. **True or False**

5. Some people even allow inclement weather to keep them away from the worship of their God. Someone has said, forty-nine drops of rain will cause fifty people to miss worship service.

(Question):

A. Some people are easily hindered from worshipping God. **True or False**

6. New convert, never let such trivial matters interfere with your worship of God! There will be some in the church who will not set the proper example, but don't let them discourage you!

(Question):

A. A new Christian should expect trivial matters to interfere with his worship. **True or False**

7. Your attitude toward worship should be the same as David's – gladness. David said, “I was

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glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalms 122:1).

(Question):

A. You should look forward to worship with gladness. **True or False**

8. God has always stipulated the conditions of worship. Consider the example of Cain and Abel recorded in Gen. 4. Cain, a tiller of the ground, brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord, while Abel, a shepherd, brought of the firstlings of his flock. The Bible says that God had respect unto Abel and to his offering, but unto Cain and his offering He had no respect.

(Question):

A. God always properly informs his followers of what is expected of them. **True or False**

9. Why did God respect Abel in preference to Cain? To answer the question, we must turn to the New Testament for some help. The answer is found in Hebrews 11:4 – "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

(Question):

A. God respected Abel rather than Cain because he offered his gift in agreement with God's commands. **True or False**

10. Now, how does one obtain faith? According to Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Thus, God had spoken to the sons of Adam and Eve and instructed them concerning the requirements of acceptable worship..

(Question):

A. Faith is given as a gift from God. **True or False**

11. You may think the action of God in this case of Cain was rather severe, but you must remember that God had given him ample opportunity to worship correctly. If Cain had not been properly instructed, the situation would have been entirely different.

(Question):

A. God was pleased with Cain's offering because he disobeyed; he chose to offer what he wanted to. **True or False**

12. Another illustration of the importance of worshipping God as instructed, is that of Nadab and Abihu. A record of this story is found in Leviticus 10. God had instructed them concerning the proper kind of fire to use. In verse one of the Bible says, "they offered strange fire before the

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Lord." Verse two informs us that," there went out fire from the Lord and consumed them."

(Question):

- A. God destroyed Nadab and Abihu because of disobedience. **True or False**

13. Again, you are impressed with the severity of God. These two stories stress the importance of worshipping as God instructed. These examples contain a great lesson for us today: it does make a difference how we worship the great I AM. It must be according to the direction of God.

(Question):

- A. The most important thing to remember about worship is that we must be sincere. **True or False**

14. Perhaps it is unnecessary to raise the question, whom should we worship? I believe, however, it is important to note this briefly. God told the Jews of old that he was a jealous God and they should worship no other (Ex. 34:14). "For thou shalt worship no other God: for the Lord whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

(Question):

- A. Whom should you worship?

15. In this respect, God surely remains the same. He is the same God to us that He was to the Jews; He does not change (Neither does Christ Heb. 13:8). Consequently, you should not be surprised to find the same kind of commands regarding God's jealousy. Jesus expressed this idea in resisting Satan during His temptation in the wilderness when He said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." (Matt 4:10).

(Question):

- A. God changes with each dispensation.
True or False

16. Now, this is not to say that God has given man the same instructions regarding worship throughout history. What is being said that God has always been a jealous God and has commanded man's worship.

(Question):

- A. God's commands remain the same for each dispensation. **True or False**

17. You're bound to the commands of God for your dispensation – Christian Age. Christ explained it to the Samaritan woman this way: "Woman believe me, the hour cometh when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for

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the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:21,23).

(Question):

- A. How was the Samaritan woman told that men would worship God? In Jerusalem or in spirit and in truth.

18. How has God directed you to worship? In John 4:24, it states, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Hence it takes more than sincerity to please God I worship; it must be "in spirit" and "in truth."

(Question):

- A. Our worship is directed to a spirit. **True or False**
- B. Or, our worship is directed to a spiritual being. **True or False**

19. To worship "in spirit" means that the worship must come from the heart, i.e., must be done in the right attitude. This is indicated by the definition of worship given earlier. To worship according to the will of God.

(Question):

- A. What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth? Worship from the heart according to God's direction. **True or False**

20. It is possible, then, for one to worship God in vain. To attempt to worship Him in any way other than "in spirit" and "in truth" would be vain. Christ accused the Pharisees of his day of vain worship: "Howbeit, in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). Thus, you must be diligent that your worship be not in vain.

(Question):

- A. What did Christ say constituted vain worship? Teaching for doctrine the commandments of men or, lack of love and concern for God.

21. One thing that should motivate you to worship is the promise of Christ in Matt. 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Doubtless there are great blessings to be derived from assembling with fellow Christians if Christ is in their midst.

(Question):

- A. Christ's presence in the midst of worshippers should motivate you to worship. **True or False**

22. Vital worship requires preparation and meditation. One must "warm up" for worship in a manner similar to a runner preparing for a race or a vocalist preparing to sing. Neither the runner nor the vocalist (if wise) participates without

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proper warm-up. Likewise, if your worship is to be meaningful, you must prepare before the actual participation takes place.

(Question):

- A. Vital worship requires preparation and meditation. **True or False**

23. This preparation is necessary because you are the actor or participant and God is the audience. It is to Him that all our adoration is directed. Who would dare be lax and try to come to God in worship without first preparing properly? Such action surely would be displeasing to God.

(Question):

- A. You are the actor; God is the audience.
True or False

24. What is the Christian's day of worship? Is it the Sabbath or Sunday, the first day of the week? Our day of worship is not the Sabbath (Saturday). This was a special day for the Jew (Deuteronomy 5:15, Exodus 20:11). It was a part of the law given to Moses and lasted only as long as Moses' law. This law was fulfilled by Christ and taken out of the way (Col. 2:14).

(Question):

- A. The Sabbath is not binding on Christians because it was a special day for the Jews only or because it was applicable for all.

25. The Christian is to worship on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day. The Bible pattern is indicated in Acts 20:7: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow." This pattern is substantiated or supported by historians.

(Question):

- A. The Lord's day is the Sabbath, Saturday, Sunday, sixth day, or first day of the week. **Select what is applicable.**

26. By now the importance of worship begins to take on new dimensions. Worship is important for several reasons:

- It fulfills one of man's natural, basic needs.
- It strengthens you.
- It provides an avenue for man to show his respect for God (conversely, without it man shows disrespect for God).
- It provides a means of fellowship with Christians.
- It is a command.
- It provides a means for man to fulfill the purpose of his creation – worship.

27. Thus far you have noted what worship is, whom you should worship, how you should worship, and when you should worship. Now let

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us study the question, what are the elements of acceptable worship?

28. We noted earlier that God was very much displeased with those who disobeyed his instructions regarding worship. So where do we go to get our instructions regarding worship? Of course, we must turn to the Bible, God's all-sufficient word, for the proper guidance.

(Question):

- A. It is important that we go to the Bible for guidance concerning worship because God's instructions are there. **True or False**
- B. It provides the only source. **True or False**

29. As we discuss these elements of worship, remember that worship is much more than the simple performance of certain acts. It is something which takes place in the human heart, i.e., "the adorning reverence of the human spirit for the Divine."

(Question):

- A. True worship transpires with the mere performance of certain specific acts? **True or False**

30. God's way of worship involves praying, observing the Lord's Supper, giving teaching and

singing. All of which are the same importance and value according to God's word.

(Question):

- A. What are the five elements of acceptable worship?

31. To the church of Thessalonians, Paul wrote, "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:17,18). Now, this does not mean that they were to literally pray without ceasing. Rather he meant that they should have a prayerful attitude at all times.

(Question):

- A. To pray without ceasing means that one must pray all the time. **True or False.**
- B. Have a prayerful attitude at all times. **True or False.**

32. Unto the church of God at Corinth, Paul wrote, "What is it then? "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

(Question):

- A. Paul considered it important to pray with the spirit and the understanding. **True or False.**

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33. The early church realized the importance of praying. In addition to the Thessalonians and Corinthians mentioned in the previous frames, Luke records in Acts 2:42, "They (Jerusalem Christians) continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." Paul further instructed the Corinthians to "give yourselves unto prayer..." (1 Cor 7:5).

(Question):

A. How do we know that the early church realized the importance of prayer? They practiced it or we don't have positive proof. **Choose One**

34. Other congregations were similarly instructed:

Ephesus – "Praying always with all supplication in the Spirit.." (Eph. 6:18)

Philippi – "...but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6)

Colosse – "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2).

35. In the three previous frames how many New Testament congregations practiced or received instruction regarding prayer?

(Question):

A. 2, 4, or 8?

36. For prayer to be effectual it must be offered in faith and according to God's will. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that many think that he shall receive anything of the Lord" (James 1:6,7). John said, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

(Question):

A. Prayer must be offered in faith and according to God's will. **True or False**

37. Someone has said, "Pray as if everything depended on God: work as if everything depended on you." Such an attitude will go a long way toward an effectual prayer life.

(Question):

A. Pray as if everything depended on you. **True or False**

38. Proper growth in this area will be indicated when you "pray without ceasing" (have a prayerful attitude) and not just in time of great need, i.e. sorrow, trouble, etc. Prayer, however, is not limited just to worship. See 1 Tim. 2:1-8.

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(Question):

- A. Prayer is just something to use to get out of an emergency situation. **True or False**

39. Another important element of worship is the Lord's Supper. Paul indicates the purpose of it in 1 Cor. 11:23-26. Turn and read these verses in the Bible.

40. Here Paul indicates that the Lord's Supper is a memorial – in memory of Christ. It is a memorial not only of His death but also of His second coming.

(Question):

- A. The supper is observed in memory of the apostles. **True or False**
B. The supper is observed in memory of Christ. **True or False**

41. This act of worship is to take place with regularity on the "first day of the week" (Acts 20:7). Which week we might ask? Since every week has a first day, we should observe the Lord's Supper weekly.

(Question):

- A. The Lord's Supper should be observed every first Sunday in the month. **True or False**

42. Proper observance of the Lord's Supper requires examination of self. Without this one might be damned for partaking incorrectly, 1 Cor. 11:28. To eat "worthily" one must "discern" the Lord's body. To "discern" means to come to know or recognize mentally.

(Question):

- A. Self-examination is non-essential for proper observance of the Lord's Supper. **True or False**

43. Thus, when one observances the Lord's supper, he meditates upon the Lord, His life, His death and His resurrection. Improper observance can cause spiritual sickness and sleepiness, 1 Cor. 11:30.

(Question):

- A. To discern the Lord's body means to come to know or recognize mentally. **True or False**

44. Observance of the Lord's Supper is a personal matter. Each man is to examine himself. You have no right to examine anyone but yourself! Consequently, you have no authority to dictate who can partake. Observance of the Lord's Supper, like that of other elements of worship, is intended for the Christian, but this does not mean that we have the right to exclude others.

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(Question):

- A. How many people should you examine before partaking of the Lord's Supper?
- _____

45. The significance and importance of the Lord's supper is great to the Christian. It affords an opportunity to quietly reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of the Savior. What other single thing can be consoling and encouraging to the child of God than to meditate quietly on the sacrifice of Christ? To comprehend in some way the great love shown to you by both God and Christ can't help but result in a close fellowship.

(Question):

- A. The Lord's Supper signifies life, death and resurrection of Christ. **True or False**

46. A third important element of worship is giving. Some have said, "All the church wants is money," but the Lord says He wants much more than your money; He wants your life! Paul wrote to the Romans (Romans 12:1) beseeching them to "present your bodies as living sacrifices."

(Question):

- A. The Lord is satisfied with just your money. **True or False.**

47. You noted in frame 40 that the Lord's supper is a memorial to Christ, a means of

remembering His life, death and resurrection.

Now, in giving, the Christian has a means of proving his love. Paul admonished the Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:8) "to prove the sincerity of your love."

(Question):

- A. A Christian can prove his love for Christ by giving of himself and his means. **True or False**
- B. A Christian can prove his love for Christ by investing in the stock market. **True or False**

48. The level of your giving is a good indicator of your spiritual condition. How would you look upon a man who spent all of his money buying food and clothing for others and would not spend any on his family? Would you think that the man had insufficient love for his family? Rightly so!

(Question):

- A. A good measure of your spiritual condition is the number times you attend service. **True or False**
- B. A good measure of your spiritual condition is the level of your giving. **True or False**

49. Now, apply the above principle spiritually. How do you think God feels when we spend all our money on others and ourselves and leave Him out?

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50. Paul uses the Macedonians who had given to the poor saints of Jerusalem out of their deep poverty as an example of liberal giving. Read 2 Cor. 8:1 – 15. Notice that Paul says they “first gave of themselves to the Lord,” verse 5. Then he admonishes them to “abound in this grace (giving) also,” verse 7.

(Question):

- A. In preparation for real giving, the Macedonians first gave of themselves.
True or False

51. A logical question to ask is, “How much should I give?” Some would say in answer to this question would be a “tenth” or tithe is commanded. Those under prior dispensations, this was the minimum requirement. Actually, the Jews gave closer to 30% of their income when all factors are considered

(Question):

- A. In prior dispensations, a minimum requirement of giving was 30%. **True or False**

52. Tithing is not commanded under the New Testament. Christians are simply commanded to give as they have been prospered; “Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no

gatherings when I come,” (1 Cor 16:2). Note that God is the one who does the prospering.

(Question):

- A. According to Matt. 5:20, we are to exceed the Pharisees and scribes in righteousness. **True or False**
B. Christians are commanded to give 10%.
True or False
C. Christians are to give as they prosper.
True or False

53. You are but a steward of the things that God has provided. They belong to Him (1 Cor. 10:26) and you have merely been entrusted with administering the estate.

(Question):

- A. A steward is one who has complete ownership of the things in his care.
True or False

54. The amount you should give is measured by the ability you have to give, i.e., in direct proportion to the amount entrusted in your care. This first principle is taught in 2 Cor. 8:12, “For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what a man hath, and not according to what he hath not.”

(Question):

- A. Our giving is based upon what we have.
True or False

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55. Paul further admonished the Corinthians regarding giving. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

(Question):

- A. One who gives what's left over is giving purposefully as the Bible instructs. **True or False**

56. As a new member of the church, you need to grow into a liberal giver. At first, it will be difficult to keep from giving grudgingly or with cheer. However, proper spiritual growth will include growth in this grace also.

(Question):

- A. It will be easy to give liberally and cheerfully at first. **True or False**

57. Someone has said, "You can't take it (wealth) with you when you die, but you can send it on ahead." This is very true.

(Question):

- A. Material wealth is something that you take with you when you die. **True or False**

58. The Lord stated it this way: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and

rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

(Question):

- A. We can physically take our treasures when we die. **True or False**
B. We can send it on ahead. **True or False**

59. Giving, like the two previous elements of worship (prayer and the Lord's Supper) is an individual responsibility which is to be exercised on a weekly basis. It is a means of proving our love for God and Christ. It is a means of fulfilling the mission of the church. May you grow in this grace also.

(Question):

- A. Responsibility to give is individual and it is to be done weekly. **True or False**
B. It is another element of worship. **True or False**

60. A fourth element of worship is teaching. Just as prayer involves communication so does teaching. Prayer is your avenue of talking to God; the Bible is God's way of talking to you. Thus, our study and teaching must be found in the Bible.

(Question):

What are the four elements discussed thus far:

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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

61. The Jerusalem Christian “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread, and in prayer” (Acts 2:42). So preaching and teaching were an integral part of the worship of the early church.

(Question):

- A. Based on the above scriptures, the first century Christians was lax concerning teaching. **True or False**

62. The purpose of teaching (the Bible) is threefold: 1. to save the lost (Mark 16:15, 16; Romans 1:16), 2. to edify the saints (II Tim. 4:1,2) and 3. to glorify God (I Tim. 3:15).

(Question):

- A. It is important to teach the Bible to save the lost, edify the saints and to glorify God. **True or False**

63. One remaining element of worship – singing: is required for acceptable worship. There is much worship in the religious world.

(Question):

- A. Singing is one of the acts of worship about which there is little confusion in the religious world about. **True or False**

64. To aid in understanding what the Lord commands regarding music, let us note a few basic facts about Biblical interpretations. There are two kinds of music – vocal and mechanical discussed in the Bible. Our question is, “What kind of music is authorized in our worship of God in the Christian Age – Mechanical or Vocal?”

65. Notice the following scriptures which relate to music: 1 Cor. 14:15 “...I will sin with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

(Question):

- A. Music is to be made by singing. **True or False**
B. Music is to be made by playing. **True or False**

66. Ephesians 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual song; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

(Question):

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- A. The command regarding music in this passage is to sing and make melody in our heart. **True or False**
- B. The command says sing and play. **True or False**

67. 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."

(Question):

- A. The command regarding music in this passage is to sing with grace in your heart. **True or False**
- B. Admonish one another with instruments. **True or False**

68. Thus the command is specific – to sing! This eliminates any other kind of music.

69. How could a mechanical instrument "sing with the spirit and understanding," or "sing and make melody in its heart," or "sing with grace in its heart?" When viewed in this light, it becomes clear that God intended for His children in the Christian Age to sing unto Him.

(Question):

- A. Our music in worship should be vocal. **True or False**

- B. Our music in worship should be instrumental. **True or False**

70. To further clarify the Bible teaching regarding this important element of worship let us review one very basic element of proper Biblical interpretation. Commands found in the Bible are either generic (general) or specific. To illustrate, Christ used a generic term (go) in Matthew 28:19 when He gave the great commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..."

(Question):

- A. The two types of commands in the Bible are gentle and harsh. **True or False**
- B. Generic and specific. **True or False**

71. The word "go" is general because the Lord did not specify the exact means of transportation. Thus one could fill the general command "go" by using any practical means of transportation, i.e., walk, ride or run.

(Question):

- A. A generic command is specific. **True or False**
- B. A generic command is general. **True or False**

72. In contrast, some commands are specific. A specific command is exclusive, i.e., all other things are excluded. For example, God commanded Noah to build an ark of gopher wood.

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Here God specified the exact kind of wood. Thus oak, pine or any other kind of wood was excluded.

(Question):

A. Specific commands are inclusive. **True or False**

B. Specific commands are exclusive. **True or False**

73. The word "music" is a generic term which includes both vocal and mechanical forms as noted previously. But the Lord said "sing." Sing is a specific term which excludes mechanical music. The Lord then wants you to sing praises to Him from your heart. Surely this is fitting because "out of the heart are the issues of life."

(Question):

A. The word "sing" is generic. **True or False**

B. The word "sing" is specific. **True or False**

74. The aim of this lesson has been to help you understand what God requires in acceptable worship; then with a proper understanding of what is required to help you understand the importance of worship in your life as a child of God.

(Question):

A. The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand true worship and its importance. **True or False**

75. In conclusion, it is important to note that regularity of worship is important and expected. The Hebrew writer admonished, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much more as you see the day approaching."

(Question):

A. Regularity in worship is important. **True or False**

76. A story from nature illustrates this point. The story concerns sea gulls that were staying in St. Augustine, Florida. These birds were not starving because of a food shortage but because they had forgotten how to fish. For years they depended on the shrimp fleet operating out of the harbor to toss them scraps from the nets. When the shrimp fleet moved to Key West, Florida, the birds began to starve because they had lost their natural ability to fish through non-use.

REMEMBER THIS!

77. Man was created to worship God. This is a natural desire. If the desire is suppressed and one fails to worship, even the desire will be taken away. Satan will have plenty of "scraps" along the way to beguile you. But with proper spiritual

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exercise you can avoid his clutches. Your soul will be bigger by worshipping God regularly. May God give you the earnest desire to do just that!