Worship

Intro: Worship means “honor, reverence, homage, in thought, feeling, or act.” In the Old Testament the principle word used is shahah meaning to, “depress, bow down, prostrate” as in Exo. 4:31 “And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.” In the New Testament the principle word is proskuneo meaning to, “kiss the hand or ground toward” hence often in the oriental fashion of bowing prostrate upon the ground. There is no more beautiful picture than true worship.

I. Importance and Necessity of Worship
   A. Worship is one of the first things mentioned in the Bible.
      1. Gen. 4:3-5 “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”

   B. It was the first thing Noah did when he left the ark; Gen. 8:20 “And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

   C. Psa. 29:2 “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

   D. Psa. 95:6 “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.”

   E. Wise men went to worship Jesus; Mat. 2:1-2 “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

   F. Mat. 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

   G. Jesus left us an example of worship; Luke 4:16 “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”

   H. One must be a worshipper of God for his prayers to be answered; John 9:31 “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

II. The Lord’s Day Is a Special Day of Worship.
   A. It is His day
      1. Rev. 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,”
      2. This is the day Jesus was raised from the dead.
      3. It is the day the church was established.

   B. This is not the only time the early church worshipped God.
      1. Added to the church daily; Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
      2. Jesus taught daily; Mat. 26:55 “In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.”
      3. It would not make sense to say you worship God on Sunday because you love Him, but that you have no love for Him on the other days.

   C. However, there is something special about Sunday, the Lord’s day.
      1. 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; and continued his speech until midnight.”
2. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

3. It was the only day of the week when the church came together to engage in all aspects of worship.
   a. Some claim they can get as close to God out in nature (lake, golf course, gardening, etc.) as they can in the church building.
   b. God has commanded us to come together in one place for worship.
   c. No one can get close to God by disobeying Him.
   d. Recreation is no substitute for worship.

III. THINGS WHICH HINDER ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP.

A. Not worshipping in spirit.
   1. John 4:23-24 “23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
   2. Mat. 15:8 “8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”
   3. Mind is not centered on Christ and our worship but on other things.
   4. Some might have come as a spectator or critic.

B. Not worshipping in truth.
   1. John 4:23-24 “23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
   2. John 17:17 “17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
   3. Mat. 15:9 “9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
   4. Some is only partially error (Rat poison is 98% good ingredients and only 2% bad).

C. Serving the devil.
   1. Mat. 4:8-10 “8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
   2. Mat. 6:24 “24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
   3. Mat. 12:30 “30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

D. Lack of faith
   1. Exo. 4:31 “31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”
   2. Do we have faith to worship God at every service?

E. Lack of humility
   1. Luke 18:10-14 “10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
   2. Pro. 6:16-17 “16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,”
F. Wrong attitude toward a brother.
   1. Mat. 5:23-24 "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."
   2. Mat. 18:15-17 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

G. Robbery of God
   1. Mal. 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."
   2. No one can worship acceptably and rob God at the same time.
      a. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
      b. 2 Cor. 8:5 "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

H. Lack of Reverence
   1. 1 Cor. 11:27, 29 "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."
   2. If it is in spirit, it will be in reverence.

Conclusion: Let us make sure we worship God but do so acceptably.