

WORD 2020

Worship

Order

Relationship

Spirit

Heaven

Inheritance

Presence

• Worship –

I Chronicles 16:23-36 Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. 24 Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. 25 Great is the Lord! **He is most worthy of praise!** He is to be feared above all gods. 26 The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens! 27 Honor and majesty surround him; strength and joy fill his dwelling.

28 O nations of the world, recognize the Lord, recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong. 29 **Give to the Lord the glory he deserves!** Bring your offering and come into his presence. **Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor.** 30 Let all the earth tremble before him. The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.

31 Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!" 32 Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! 33 Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise, for the Lord is coming to judge the earth.

34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. 35 Cry out, "Save us, O God of our salvation! Gather and rescue us from among the nations, so we can thank your holy name and rejoice and praise you."

36 Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives from everlasting to everlasting!

And all the people shouted "Amen!" and praised the Lord. NLT

- **Psalm 29:1-2** Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. ESV
- **WORSHIP** - Reverent devotion and allegiance pledged to God; the rituals or ceremonies by which this reverence is expressed. The English word worship comes from the Old English word worthship, a word which denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion.
- Although the New Testament does not instruct worshipers in a specific procedure to follow in **their services**, several elements appear regularly in the worship practices of the early church.
- **Prayer** apparently had a leading place in Christian worship. The letters of Paul regularly open with references to prayer for fellow-Christians who are instructed to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17). **Praise**, either by individuals or in hymns sung in common, reflects the frequent use of psalms in the synagogue. Also, possible fragments of Christian hymns appear scattered through the New Testament (Acts 4:24-30; Eph 5:14; 1 Tim 3:16; Rev 4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12-13).

- **Lessons from the Bible to be read and studied** were another part of the worship procedure of the New Testament church. Emphasis was probably given to the messianic prophecies which had been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. His teachings also received a primary place.
- **Prophecy, inspired preaching by one filled with the Holy Spirit**, helped build up the church, the body of Christ (Eph. 12:6). **Contributions were also collected on the first day of each week** (1 Cor 16:2). Other details about the worship procedures of the early Christians in the New Testament times are spotty. But these elements must have been regularly included in the weekly worship service. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)
- Prayer, Praise, Bible reading and studying, Prophecy (inspired preaching), Giving!
- Seeing Worship as more than just things we do in Church Services

- **Order** –
- **2 Kings 20:1** In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Set your house (affairs; NLT) in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.'" ESV
- **Psalms 37:23-27** The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. 27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. KJV
- What would it mean to set your house in order?
- If you don't order your life others will!!!
- Are we allowing the Lord to order our steps?

• Relationships –

- Def. Relationship – the state or condition that exists between people or groups that deal with one another (World Book Dictionary). The body of Christ exists as a composite of relationships, not gatherings for meetings. Relationships are Divinely appointed not conveniently chosen.
- Foundation of Relationship (Agape Love)
 - I John 4:19 Foundation of our love to God
 - I John 4:20 Proof of Love
 - I John 4:21 The love of God and the love of man can never be separated; he who loves God will love his brother. He who loves his brother gives this proof that he loves God, because he loves with a measure of that love which dwells in God.
 - The degree of our love towards our brothers and sisters demonstrates the degree of the love of God.

- 3 Types of Relationships

- Casual
- Common
- Committed

- Spirit —

- John 4:21-24 Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."
- John 6:63-64 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

- John 14:15-19 "If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.
- John 14:26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.
- John 16:5-15 "But now I am going away to the One who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.
- 12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'
- **Knowing the Holy Spirit, Walking in the Spirit, Worshipping in the Spirit!**

• Heaven —

- Imagine Heaven by John Burke
- All About Heaven by Dave Oliver
- Are we afraid to die?
- What's up with Heaven? Are you: willing to stay but longing to go willing to go but longing to stay?

• Inheritance —

- To the Hebrew mind, the term inheritance had strong spiritual and national associations extending far beyond the family estate. The land of Canaan was regarded as an inheritance from the Lord because God had promised the land to Abraham and his descendants (Num 33:53). Both Moses and Joshua were told by the Lord to divide the land of Canaan among the tribes "as an inheritance" (Num 26:52-53; Josh 13:6). God directed that the land be distributed to each tribe by lot according to its population.

- According to Paul, the Christian's spiritual inheritance is based strictly on our relationship to Christ.
 - "For you are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ....And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal 3:26,29).
 - This spiritual birthright cannot be inherited by sinners (1 Cor 6:9-11).
 - The present possession of the spiritual inheritance as well as its future glory is emphasized in Rom 8: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Rom 8:16-17).
- Paul also declared that the Spirit's indwelling power is both the sign and seal that we are heirs of God's promise: "Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance" (Eph 1:13-14).
- Those who are redeemed, including the Gentiles, become God's adopted sons with full inheritance rights (Gal 4:1-7).
- In a burst of joy, Peter celebrated every Christian's "living hope" of his heavenly inheritance: "To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4).

- **Presence** —

- **Exodus 33:15-23** Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. 16 How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."
- 17 The Lord replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."
- 18 Moses responded, "Then show me your glorious presence."
- 19 The Lord replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. 20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." 21 The Lord continued, "Look, stand near me on this rock. 22 As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen."
- **The presence of God or the nearness of God is a metaphor from two sides. One, our experience of it and the other, God's expression of it.**

- **Living in the Presence of God – Restoring the Wells**

- The Presence of God is one of deep intimacy with our Father. It is that place of knowing Him and being fully known by Him.

- It is that place of righteousness – where we know deeply, not just academically, that through Jesus, we are truly right with God.

- There is nothing separating us. We are in Him and He is in us.

- There are no shadows between us. It is the joy of the Lord within us.

- That joy that is not dependent on circumstances but is strong and sure.

- It is that peace that quiets our hearts and mind and gives us assurance that in Him all is well with my soul.

- It is in that inner place, that oneness with our Father, that we experience the Presence of God.

- It is there that revelation comes, not by strife but by that supernatural revelation; our eyes and ears are opened our hearts receive the seed of revelation.
- It is in that place that one knows that prayers uttered are heard and will be answered. It is in that place we know the love of the Father and know what it is to love the Father.
- It is out of that union we worship in spirit and in truth.
- It is there that the Holy Spirit will make known to us what He receives from Jesus.
- It is a place of rest in God.
- **So being in the Presence of God is of utmost importance.**
- So how then do we live in the Presence of God? This is a great question and for every person it is different.