

Worship and Its Challenges



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- “Worship is a non-negotiable obligation and privilege of every Christian... We agree that when it comes to worship, God deserves it, the Bible commands it, and churches try to facilitate it,” he stressed.
 - “But we have a problem when it comes to worship. ... **True worship is rare.**”
 - According to his results, he found that in American churches,
 - thirty-two percent have never experienced God’s presence in worship,
 - forty-four percent have not experienced his presence in the past year.
 - And the younger the person, the less likely she or he has experienced that presence. Isn’t that astounding?
 - Barna continues, “Only one third of church-going adults identify worshipping God as “the most important responsibility of a Christian.”
 - And less than half of them defined worship as a “top priority” in their lives.
 - “The focus needs to be on God, not us. We worship for God’s benefit,” he stressed.
 - “The reason why we’re doing this is God commands it, God deserves it, it pleases him.”
 - **“Worship is as much an attitude as an activity,” he added, “and the right heart allows intimacy with God.”**

- ▶ Jay the last 2 Sundays:
 - ▶ The Heart of Worship – Surrender
 - ▶ Worship That Pleases God

- ▶ **What is Worship?**

- ▶ To worship is:
 - ▶ To quicken the conscience by the holiness of God,
 - ▶ To feed the mind with the truth of God
 - ▶ To purge the imagination by the beauty of God
 - ▶ To open the heart to the love of God
 - ▶ To devote the will for the purpose of God. William Temple
- ▶ Worship is not a human invention rather it is divine offering.
- ▶ Worth and ship = worthy of reverence and honor
- ▶ When we worship we declaring God's worth Revelations 5:12-14
- ▶ The biblical Term Kabod [Hebrew] translated glory means honor or weighty, heavy Isaiah 6:3
- ▶ The N.T Term Doxa = glory = God is worthy of praise and honor Luke 2:14
- ▶ Worship is as natural for man as it is for him to breathe.
- ▶ Worship is to a Christian what an engine is to a car.
- ▶ It is an absolutely indispensable part of Christian life
- ▶ Worship is an act of honoring God because of his great worthiness to be honored.

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- We have been created for worship. According to what Paul wrote the Roman church, one of the chief sins of humanity is that as a whole, we have failed to acknowledge and worship God.
 - **Romans 1:18-23** But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. 21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. NLT



► **Romans 1:18-32** But God's angry displeasure erupts as acts of human mistrust and wrongdoing and lying accumulate, as people try to put a shroud over truth. 19 But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! 20 By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So, nobody has a good excuse. 21 What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. 22 They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. 23 They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand.

► 24 So God said, in effect, "If that's what you want, that's what you get." It wasn't long before they were living in a pigpen, smeared with filth, filthy inside and out. 25 And all this because they traded the true God for a fake god, and worshiped the god they made instead of the God who made them — the God we bless, the God who blesses us. Oh, yes!

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- ▶ 26 Worse followed. Refusing to know God, they soon didn't know how to be human either — women didn't know how to be women, men didn't know how to be men. 27 Sexually confused, they abused and defiled one another, women with women, men with men — all lust, no love. And then they paid for it, oh, how they paid for it — emptied of God and love, godless and loveless wretches.
 - ▶ 28 Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. 29 And then all hell broke loose: rampant evil, grabbing and grasping, vicious backstabbing. They made life hell on earth with their envy, wanton killing, bickering, and cheating. Look at them: mean-spirited, venomous, 30 fork-tongued God-bashers. Bullies, swaggerers, insufferable windbags! They keep inventing new ways of wrecking lives. They ditch their parents when they get in the way. 31 Stupid, slimy, cruel, cold-blooded. 32 And it's not as if they don't know better. They know perfectly well they're spitting in God's face. And they don't care — worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best! *The Message*



► A.W. Tozer –“The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven’t yet come to the end of themselves. We’re still trying to give orders, and interfering with God’s work within us.”

► The first time the word “**worship**” is mentioned in the scripture may surprise us!

► **Genesis 22:1-19 – The Sacrifice of Isaac**

► There is something that Bible scholars call the “law of the first mention”. This “law” simply states that if you select an important biblical word, you will find that its first appearance in the scriptures sets the tone for all the richness of its meaning throughout the rest of the Bible. In other words, the first mention gives us the clearest picture of the meaning of the word.



➤ Genesis 22:5 "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."

➤ OT:7812 shachah (shaw-khaw'); a primitive root; to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive, **in homage to royalty or God**):

➤ KJV - bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

➤ (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

➤ What are our mindsets about “worship”

➤ Did the first mention of “worship” include any elements in our mindset of “worship”?



► The challenges for us when it comes to worship is often our mindset about worship!

► Genesis 22:1-2 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

► **Worship can be a test!**

► Answering the call!

► God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

► Your BEST "Yes I Will"

► Here I am!

► What is the Heart of Worship?

► The heart of worship is **SURRENDER**.

► 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

► We give ourselves to Him, not out of fear or duty, but because He is God!

► Psalm 100:3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. NLT

► Isaiah 45:9-10 "What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong! Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be?' 10 How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father, 'Why was I born?' or if it said to its mother, 'Why did you make me this way?'" NLT

► **Surrender is an issue of Trust**

► Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. NLT

