

## I. INTRO / BKGRD.

- What is "worship" to you?
- What does it look like when you do it?
- Is it biblical? Are your "traditions" regarding praise & worship biblical?
- Do you do it when you're NOT in church?

Definition: Old English: worth + ship; worthy of honor, respect; it implies inherent WORTH that is acknowledged and honored; it implies a reverent, respectful, submissive, humble love and adoration for our God and Savior.

Several OT words are used to describe worship: one word means to bow down and prostrate one's self in humble adoration, beseeching a holy God for His grace, favor and benevolence. Another Hebrew term means to actively serve God as a servant/slave.

The most prominent NT term is *proskuneo*, lit. "to kiss towards," to make obeisance, do reverence to as an act of devotion. Another word means to stand in awe of God. Worship is direct acknowledgement of God and praise and adoration for who He is and what He has done! It is praise, service, prayer, humble supplication, and an expression of profound gratitude for His grace, favor, mercies and forgiveness.

**The question is not so much, "Can you DEFINE it," but "Do you DO IT?"**

**II. TEXT** – starting in Rev. 1:9 we see the last living apostle, John, an old man in his 90's, making preparations to worship...v. 10 literally, "*I became in the Spirit...*" Do we make preparations to worship BEFORE we get to church? Do we prepare our hearts, check our attitudes, and confess our sins? Do we come expecting to meet the Lord here? Have we "*become in the Spirit*," having been reading, praying, seeking Him throughout the week? Enjoying and participating in praise & worship, prayer and fellowship?

**v. 9** All the other disciples are dead; John more than 90 yrs. old! Patmos a rocky crag 6x10 miles approx. 50 SW of Ephesus. The Roman historian Tacitus informs us that the Romans used some of the Aegean islands as places of exile and banishment during the 1st c.

Note the humility of John. He is not coming on as a great leader demanding submission to his authority. He calls himself a "**brother**." God never intended a spiritual hierarchy to be established within the Church. We're all part of one body. God has no favorites or specials. "*God is no respecter of persons*," (Acts 10:34) which means that God is as interested in you as He is in Billy Graham and as He was in Dwight Moody, Charles Finney, John Wesley, John Knox or Martin Luther. God didn't love them any more than He loves you. God didn't listen to them any more readily than He will listen to you. John said "*I'm a brother and a companion*."

Pray to God that men within the ministry today will have the same attitude as a brother and a companion. As Paul said, "*We are co-laborers together with God.*" (1Corinthians 3:9). We're all one in this body of Christ. We all share together. We're all just people. When the crowd was going to worship Paul, he tore his clothes and said "*Hey, I'm just a man like the rest of you! I'm no god!*" (Acts 14:14-15). We're all equal in the eyes of the Lord. God considers us as individuals and loves us as individuals. He is no respecter of persons.

**v. 10** First of all note that John had been in the Spirit on the Lord's day...Lit., "**I became in the Spirit...**" (aorist middle indicative) on the "**Lord's Day**" = Sunday (day Jesus rose from the dead, day the early Church gathered, Corinthian offerings, Christians break bread, etc.). This is an action YOU have to take if Jesus is ever to reveal Himself to YOU!

**v. 12 "Lampstands"** are *luchnia*, diminutive of *luchnos*, a portable lamp; here, seven are listed; symbolic of the seven churches of Asia. Apparently these were individual lampstands rather than one lampstand with seven branches, as was true of the Menorah in the tabernacle and the temple. They were to be a light to the world (Mt. 5:14-16).

**v. 13 "Son of Man"** was Jesus' favorite self-designation. Cf. Dan. 7:13 Daniel's vision of the 4 beasts (p. 1310; also Dan. 3:25 in the fiery furnace with Daniel's 3 friends). Jesus dressed like the High Priest (Ex. 28:4; 29:5; cf. Heb. 4:14-15; 5:1-10; 8:1-13; 9:11-28).

**v. 14** Description similar to Daniel's vision of God (Dan. 7:9) and Isaiah's (Isa. 1:18). This is Jesus in His glory! Transfiguration (Mt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9) where His clothes became as white as "lightning" (Lk.) and His face as "radiant as the Sun" (Mt.)!

**v. 16 "Stars"** - cf. v. 20; "**sword**" (*hromphaia*; a long Thracian sword); equals **divine judgment!!!**

**v. 17 "Fell at His feet"** – humble worship and acknowledgement of His power, authority, majesty, holiness...

We – like Jesus – were once dead, now alive!

#### OT portraits of worship:

- The Tabernacle in the time of Moses;
- David – exuberant, enthusiastic, humble; wrote ½ the psalms, the language and literature of worship!
- Temple – music, singing, responsive reading, teaching, prayers...

#### NT portraits of worship:

- Acts 2:42ff "*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

43 *Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.*



44 *All the believers were together and had everything in common.*"

- **Acts 20:7-12** *"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.*

8 *There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.*

9 *Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead.*

10 *Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"*

11 *Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.*

12 *The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted."* Now THAT'S a worship service!

#### Revelation portraits of worship:

- Chp. 4 – angels, elders sing, "Holy, holy, holy" and cast their crowns down in humility and humble adoration!
- Chp. 5 – "**sang**" (v. 9 *aido*; P.A.I.); they "**fall down and worship**" (v. 14).

#### Worship in the Tabernacle, in the Temple, but now in US! We are the Temple of God!

- **1 Cor. 3:16-17** *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"*

17 *If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."*

- **1 Cor. 6:19-20** *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

20 *you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."*

- **2 Cor. 6:16f** *"What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."*

17 *"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

#### Worship was not always connected to a BUILDING:

- Before the Tabernacle, there was worship (Abraham's servant, Gen. 24:26; Israel "worshiped" atop his staff, Gen. 47; lots of OT examples...)
- Before the Temple there was worship;
- Now since the Resurrection, no BLDG. necessary either! The Tabernacle and Temple were meant to focus attention on God, not the building! That's why the Tabernacle and Temple had to be destroyed... Temple-olatry! Church-olatry today!
- Worship is an attitude of the heart that comes from seeing God for who He really is, and seeing ourselves for who we really are...and as we are humbled, we worship instinctively, naturally, spontaneously!

### **III. SUMMARY / APPLICATION / RESPONSE**

- Worship like John! Prepare your hearts, become in the Spirit!
- Receive correction – like the churches were told to do;
- Share your testimony: past, present and future! (v. 19).