

CLASS ON WORSHIP

Wednesday Night
1/14/09

Questions

- How can our worship be in vain?
 - ▣ Ungodly lives (Isa. 1:10-15; 1 Tim. 2:8)
 - ▣ Following the teaching of men (Matt. 15:9)
 - ▣ Worshiping idols (Acts 17:23)
 - ▣ Self-imposed (Col. 2:20-23)

Questions

- ***What is worship?***

- The English word

- “The reverent love and allegiance accorded to deity, idol or sacred object; a set of ceremonies, prayers or other religious forms by which this love is expressed; ardent, humble devotion”

Questions

- ***What is worship?***

- There are fifteen Hebrew and Greek words that are translated “worship” in the KJV of the Bible. Of these fifteen words, there are four principle meanings:

Original Words

□ **Hebrew**

- **Shachah (Shaw Haw)** “...*bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship*”
(*Dan. 2:46, 3:5, Isa. 44:15, 17, 19*)

Original Greek Words

- **proskuneo, most common (53 times)**

- *pros-koo-neh'-o; means to prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore) :- worship.*

- **Sebomai (10 times)**

- *seb'-om-ahee; to revere, adore*

- **Latreuo (21 times)**

- *lat-ryoo'-o; from latris (a hired menial); to minister (to God), i.e. render religious homage :- serve, do the service, worship*
- Translated “Worship” 4 times (Acts 7:42; 24:14; Heb. 10:2; Phil 3:3)

Question: what is worship?

- My definition
 - ▣ **Worship is adoration or awe that expressed in acts that God has prescribed for us.**

How does Jesus define worship?

- Worship consists of three things
 - ▣ Right object
 - God (Rev. 22:9)
 - “God is spirit, carries one of the four descriptions of God found in the N.T.
 - The other three are
 - “God is light” (1 John 1:5)
 - “God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16)
 - “God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29).

How does Jesus define worship?

- Right object - God
- Right spirit - an attitude of the heart
 - Worship in spirit is the outpouring of the heart (includes the emotions, will and intellect) due to the adoration, awe, thanksgiving and reverence for God
 - For who he is (Rev. 4:1-11; 5:1-2, 9-14)
 - For what he is (Rev. 4:8; 6:10)
 - For what we are (1 Tim. 1:15-16)

How does Jesus define worship?

- Right object - God
- Right spirit - an attitude of the heart
- Right Action - according to truth
 - Expression of right attitude or devotion to God with acts that God has given (Acts 2:42; 4:23; 20:7; Heb. 2:12; 1 Cor. 16:2)
 - Warned in 1 Cor. 11:17 ff to keep it spiritual.

Question

- **Is everything we do (that is right) worship?**
 - No!
 - Again, what is the definition?
 - Worship is adoration or awe that expressed in acts that God has prescribed for us.
 - Note what Jesus taught (Matt. 4:10; Lk. 4:8)
 - He taught that there is a difference between worship and service

Service is a broader term than worship.

- Some confuse worship and service.
 - ▣ Worship is service to God, and it is right to say that we go to worship services, but all service is not worship. Washing the car, guitar playing, eating hamburgers, etc are not worship.
- It is true that in certain contexts the Greek word in Romans 12:1 (*latreuo*) is properly rendered as worship (as in Romans 9:4). But in itself the word only means serve, whether the service is toward God or men (cf. *Latris*, a hired servant; *latron*, hire, pay). Sometimes the word refers to a lifetime of service to God (Acts 24:14; Heb. 12:28), and the context of Romans 12:1 shows one's offering his body as a living sacrifice is a lifetime of service.

Is everything we do (that is right) worship?

- All worship is service but not all service is worship
 - ▣ Worship does not occur accidentally
 - One prepares his heart and then acts
 - ▣ Worship is not continuous
 - Abraham climbed a mountain to worship on its summit, and then, after worship, returned to his base camp at the foot of the mountain (Gen. 22:1-5).
 - When David learned that his baby was dead, he bathed, changed clothes, and went into the house of Jehovah, “and worshiped” (2 Sam. 12:20). When he had worshiped, he returned home and ate a meal. Worship is not all that one does. It is punctuated by stop and go.
 - The Ethiopian had been to Jerusalem to worship (Acts 8); worship was not then nor is it now all of life.