

Worship: Is it Possible to Worship Without Music?

Three Pillars of Worship

- What is worship? Lydia worshipped (*sebo*) God (Acts 16). To 'revere' or 'feel awe'. Appreciation. Leper worshipped (*proskuneo*) Christ (Matt. 8). To 'prostrate oneself', lit. 'to kiss towards'. Adoration. Christians worship (*latreuo*) God in (by) the Spirit (Phil. 3). Service towards a superior. Activity.
- **Worship** = a heart overflowing with appreciation. Causes one to bow (OT) in adoration. Results in activity.
- First mention OT. *Gen. 18. Lord appeared. Ran to meet them. Bowed himself (adoration). I will fetch (activity)*. First mention NT. *Matt. 2.11: Saw the young child (appreciation). Fell down (adoration). Presented gifts (activity)*.
- A heart full to overflowing with Christ. And the presentation of that appreciation before God for His delight. *Psa. 45.1: My heart is inditing (bursting fountain, boiling pan) a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made (effort) touching the king: My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.* Ready to overflow in eloquent word.
- **1.** Worship belongs exclusively to God (Matt. 4.10). **2.** Worship has been *debased* by sin. Mankind now worships the *creature* (not Creator). **3.** Worship directed towards someone/something *else* is **idolatry**. Material. Power.

Three Pictures of Worship

- Blind man (John 9). *Once I was blind, now I see (rejoicing). Who is He Lord that I might believe? Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him.* When He realised the greatness of Christ, He truly worshipped.
- Bride (Song. 5). *What is thy beloved more than another beloved?* Spontaneous outpouring of contemplation.
- Mary (John 12). Took her *glory* and laid it at the feet of Christ. Poured out the costliest fragrance in appreciation.
- Worship embraces a wide range of responses. Spontaneous or meditated. Brief as a sentence (Thomas) or long as a lifetime of service (Rom. 12.1). How far have we developed in our appreciation (worship) of Christ?

Three Principles of Worship [John 4.20-24]

- v.23: Son of Man *seeks* lost sinners. Father *seeks* worshippers. Ultimate design and purpose of mankind.
- *Where? Place* (vv.20-21). Not Gerizim or Jerusalem. Within the holiest (rent veil). *Heb. 10.19: (We have) boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. By a new and living way. Within the veil.*
- *Who? Person* (v.23). The Father. Note the 'what' (v.22). Jews intelligently worshipped a concealed God (veil). Now, He is revealed as Father. *John 1.18: No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son... Rev. 22.9: See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant... worship God. What do we worship? Job. Sport. Money.*
- *How? Precept* (v.24). In spirit = contrast Jewish worship which was *ceremonial*. We do not have any ornate buildings, priestly garments, animal sacrifices, choirs or a brazen altar. Our worship is in *spirit* (Phil 3.3). God is interested in the melodies of our hearts. *Eph. 5.19: Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*
- 'Worship' music is *sensual* (flesh-centred). Appeals to my *emotions*. *I feel* peaceful (goose bumps). 'Worship experience' = as if worship is for me. [*Who You Say I Am – Hillsong Worship*] Cp. Such a worm as I.
- In truth = contrast Samaritan which was *counterfeit*. Spirit gives us a true conception of the Father. Intelligent.

Three Preparations for Worship

- Lord's Supper is a very important part of the *collective* worship of a local assembly. Careful preparation.
- Offerings (Lev. 1-7). Not to *establish* a relationship with God. Expression of communion. Enjoyed or restored.
- Manward. *Two* kinds of trespass against my brother = deceiving or lying. *Amends* must be made. *Fifth* part added. A *sacrifice* offered. *Matt. 5.23-24. God is robbed of worship when we are at odds with our brethren.*
- Godward. *Three* kinds of trespass (*failing* to do what was required). Can a man rob God? Time. Devotion.
- Selfward. Let a man *examine* himself (attitude of heart). *Mal. 1.8, 10: Am I offering what is deficient? They considered it a weariness (v.13). Routine. Going through the motions. Heart not in it. Amos 5.21-22, 26. Performance of worship, but their hearts were absorbed in a world of idolatry. Hypocrisy.*
- Come and offer your **gift**. Audibly and inaudibly. Humblest act of heart appreciation He desires (two mites).

Practice of Worship (Three Aspects)

- Proper appreciation of Christ = worshipful sacrifice of *praise* (song), *possessions* (substance) and *persons* (self). **Praise**: continual verbal worship, perpetually declaring His name (person, character). **Possessions**: Must be practical *expression* of verbal *confession*. Show kindness by helping the needy (materially).
- **Persons**: 'reasonable service' = logical (rational). Animals – no appreciation or consciousness of why. *Since God has been so merciful, failure to dedicate one's life to him is the height of folly and irrationality.*