

CHAPTER 14 – WORSHIP AND PRAISE

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to give the believer understanding concerning his God-given responsibility as a priest unto God to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God in praise, worship and thanksgiving and to inspire the believer toward a more intelligent expression of that worship.

Key Verse:

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
Heb 13:15-16 (KJV)

I. What is Worship?

The word “worship” means, literally, “to bow yourself down” or “to extend yourself toward.” It carries with it idea of adoration, admiration, and intense love. Every individual in the world worships someone or something and their entire lifestyle is an expression and an outworking of that worship. Every individual is bowing down to and extending themselves toward someone or something. If it is not God that they are worshipping, the focus of their whole life will be improper.

II. What form of Worship is prescribed for the New Testament Church?

Some people will say that it does not matter how you worship as long as you are sincere. The Bible seems to indicate, however, that God is very much concerned about both the sincerity of our hearts and the actual form in which that worship is expressed.

- a. New Testament worship is to be worship in spirit (John 4: 21 – 24).
- b. New Testament worship is to be worship in truth (John 4: 21 – 24; Isaiah 29: 13)
- c. New Testament worship is according to the pattern of David’s tabernacle (Acts 15: 15 – 17). There are several reasons why this is the case:
 1. Paul quotes from the Psalms describing the worship expression of those who will be saved (Romans 15: 9 – 11).
 2. The Psalms of David were a vital part of the New Testament worship expression (Colossians 3: 16; Ephesians 5: 19).
 3. James professed that the Church was the expression of the rebuilt tabernacle of David (Acts 15: 15 – 17).
 4. Many New Testament passages imply a similar expression in worship (Acts 2: 47; 3: 8; 16: 25; 24: 14; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 21; 1 Timothy 2: 8; Hebrews 13: 15 – 16; 2 Peter 2: 9).

5. This is also the form of worship in heaven (Revelation 4: 9 – 11; 5: 9 – 11; 7: 11 – 12; 11: 16 – 17; 15: 3 – 4; 19: 1 – 6).

III. What characterized the Worship in David's Tabernacle?

- a. It was spontaneous (2 Chronicles 29: 25). In other words, they did not say the same formula over and over again; nor was there necessarily a prescribed order of worship that became a set form.
- b. It was from the heart (Psalms 86: 12; 111: 1). This is the only kind of worship God has ever desired.
- c. It was expressed out of personal brokenness and humility (Psalms 51: 15 – 17).
- d. It was regular and often (Psalms 34: 1; 72: 15; 119: 164; 145: 2).
- e. It was corporate with some opportunity for individual expression (1 Chronicles 6: 31 – 32; 15: 16 – 18).
- f. It had a strong emphasis on praise (Psalms 148: 150).

IV. What forms did Worship take in David's Tabernacle?

Since God has made man to be a three-part (spirit, soul and body), He has given to man various ways to get himself totally involved in expressing worship in God (Luke 10: 27). David outlines at least nine ways to worship in the Psalms.

- a. We worship God with our voices.
 1. With audible praise (Psalms 34: 1; 40: 16; 42: 4; 66:8)
 2. With singing (Psalms 47: 6; 61: 8; 68: 4; 104: 33)
 3. With shouting (Psalms 5: 11; 27: 6; 32: 11; 35: 27)
- b. We worship God with our hands.
 1. By lifting hands (Psalms 63: 4; 119: 48; 134: 2; 141: 2)
 2. By clapping hands (Psalms 47: 1; 98: 8)
 3. By playing musical instruments (Psalms 33: 2 – 3; 57: 8; 150: 3 – 6)
- c. We worship God with our very posture.
 1. By standing (Psalms 135: 2; 134: 1)
 2. By dancing (Psalms 30: 11; 149: 3; 150: 4)
 3. By bowing or kneeling (Psalms 95: 6)

V. Why do we make such an emphasis on Worship?

- a. Because worship is commanded by God (Psalms 22: 23).
- b. Because God is worthy of our worship and praise (Psalms 18: 3).
- c. Because worship glorifies God (Psalms 50: 23).
- d. Because it helps us to develop our love relationship with God (Mark 12: 20).
- e. Because it releases the power of God's presence (Psalms 22: 3).
- f. Because we become like what we worship (Psalms 106: 19 – 20; 2 Corinthians 3: 18).
- g. Because it is the proper way to come before God (Psalms 100: 1 – 4).
- h. Because it helps us to become God-centered instead of self-centered (Isaiah 26: 3).
- i. Because it is part of our priestly ministry unto the Lord (2 Peter 2: 5 – 9).
- j. Because it is a definite sign of life (Psalms 115: 17; Isaiah 38: 19).

VI. What happens when we worship?

Whenever we respond in obedience to the Lord, by our faith we put certain spiritual laws into operation for us. Therefore, we can expect certain results in spiritual realms.

- a. Victory over our enemies (2 Chronicles 20: 1 – 30).
- b. Release from bondages (Acts 16: 16 – 34; Jonah 1: 17 – 2: 10).
- c. Inner peace and joy (1 Samuel 16: 14 – 23).
- d. The breaking up of large problems (Joshua 6: 1 – 20).
- e. Special protection from enemies (Isaiah 4: 5 – 6).
- f. A special manifestation of God's presence (2 Chronicles 5: 12 – 14).

VII. What main guidelines should govern our Worship?

Whilst there should be certain spontaneity to our worship there are still certain guidelines that make worship most beneficial to all.

- a. Total involvement (Psalms 134: 1; 113: 1). Worship is not meant for only a few, but all of God's people.
- b. Unity of expression (Psalms 133). While there is a proper place for individual expression, public worship is a corporate expression and all should follow the designated worship leader.
- c. Orderliness (1 Corinthians 14: 40). The guidelines established by the leadership should be carefully observed.
- d. Edification (1 Corinthians 14: 26). All things done in the corporate gathering should be done to build up the people of God.

Conclusion

God's people were created to be a people of worship and praise. Worship and praise helps us to keep all of life into proper perspective and to serve to remind us that we are first and foremost the servants of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 4: 10 – 11).