

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Worship of the Church – Lesson 5

ACTS OF WORSHIP

1. God is looking for people to worship Him. In what ways does God desire to be worshiped?

(John 4:23-24) In spirit and in truth

- a. “In spirit” = with the proper attitude, reverence, respect
- b. “In truth” = according to truth. God’s word is truth (John 17:17)

(23) But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23–24)

2. Is all worship acceptable to God? (Matthew 15:8-9) (9) Jesus said, “In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:9)

- a. Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13. Vain worship is useless worship.
- b. “Doctrines” – Principles, rules, guidelines, authoritative teachings concerning religion

(8) ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. (9) And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ” (Matthew 15:8–9)

3. Who has been given all authority concerning matters of worship? (Matthew 28:18) Jesus Christ

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (John 16:13)

Also (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Singing

4. According to Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; and Hebrews 2:12, we are commanded to sing.
 - a. What type of songs are we to sing? Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

(17) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord... (Ephesians 5:17–19)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

“I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” (Heb. 2:12)

- b. Discuss the “law of exclusion” and how we approach the scriptures.
- c. God teaches us through the scriptures by command, example, and necessary inference (inferred, suggested)
- d. Discuss the difference in a commandment and a matter of liberty.

Prayer

- 5. The disciples in the first church continued consistently in the acts of worship. These included the Apostle’s doctrine, fellowship, the Lord’s Supper, and prayer.
(Acts 2:42)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. (Acts 12:12)

- 6. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to pray with ceasing. We are to let our requests be known to God through prayer. (Philippians 4:6)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (Philippians 4:6)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; (Colossians 4:2)

Preaching

- 7. As the Christians were gathered on the first day of the week, what did Paul do? (Acts 20:7) Preached

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7)

- 8. Timothy was instructed to preach the word to the Christians he would minister to. (2 Tim. 4:2-5)

(2) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (5) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:2–5)

The Lord’s Supper

- 9. As Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He took the bread and broke it. (Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22)

(26) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." (27) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. (28) For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:26–28)

10. The disciples of the early church continued steadfastly in the "breaking of bread" and later came together on the first day of the week to "break bread". (Acts 20:7)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread... (Acts 20:7)

- a. We must take note that the phrase "first day of the week" is also used concerning the collection (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), most churches collect an offering on "every first day of the week."

11. How long are Christians to continue partaking of the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Till the return of Jesus Christ at His 2nd coming.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

- a. Discuss the elements (the bread and the cup) of the Lord's Supper
 - i. Unleavened bread as was eaten at the Passover
 - ii. The "fruit of the vine" as specified by Jesus in Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18
- b. Jesus instituted the New Testament supper during the eating of the Passover as described in Matthew 26: 17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- c. The Passover feast celebrated the sparing on the firstborn during the tenth plague and Israel's freedom from Egyptian captivity.

Giving

12. According to 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, on the first day of the week, there is to be a **collection**.

(1) Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: (2) On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. (1 Corinthians 16:1–2)

13. How are we to determine the amount of our offering? (2 Corinthians 9:7) By the heart

(6) But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (7) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. (9) As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." (2 Corinthians 9:6–9)

There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. (Proverbs 11:24)

14. What happens when we give generously? (Luke 6:38) We receive back in order to give again

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

a. This godly principle has always applied to God's people...

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given. (Proverbs 19:17)

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

15. Is giving 10% or a tenth of our earnings a good rule of thumb for Christians to follow?

(Deut. 14:22-23; Malachi 3:8-10)

(22) "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. (23) And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. (Deuteronomy 14:22–23)

(8) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. (9) You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. (10) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:8–10)

a.

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

16. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? _____

17. The Psalmist hid God's word in his heart so to prevent him from sin. (Psalm 119:11)

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

18. Using your available resources, answer the following:

(1) How many authors wrote the bible? 40

(2) How long did it take to write the complete bible? 1600 years

Source: "Back to the Basics" – Book 1 by John M. Duvall

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

19. If we fail to bridle (control) our tongues (speech) then our religion is useless. (1:26)

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. (James 1:26)

20. List the two characteristics of "true religion": (1:27)

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

(1) Visit the orphans and widows in their trouble. (See Matthew 25:31ff)

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)

(2) Keep yourself unspotted from the world.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)

21. Christians must not practice partiality. (2:1)

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

22. _____