

What Is True Worship All About ?

We'll begin with a basic definition for the word 'worship':

Worship is reverence and devotion for God intense love or admiration.

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision,
which • worship God in the spirit,
and • rejoice in Christ Jesus,
and • have no confidence in the flesh.

Let's examine this text verse, then we'll look throughout the ages at God's plan for worship.

Firstly We Are the Circumcision

Whereas Israel used to be God's chosen people in 'Times Past' now that they are no longer classified as God's favored nation WE (anyone saved during this present dispensation of grace) are now God's elect.

We realize that God is speaking about spiritual circumcision. He has to be because we understand that during the dispensation of grace, physical circumcision (which was given to Abraham's family) is of no benefit today.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

In God's program for today's economy, it makes no difference whether you're a circumcized Jew or an uncircumcized Gentile

1 Cor 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

.... because circumcision, today, is spiritual not physical:

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Secondly We Rejoice in Christ Jesus

Just HOW are we supposed to rejoice? We are to rejoice in the knowledge of Christ and the blessings we have in Him:

Phil 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

WHEN are we to rejoice in the Lord? We just read the word 'always' that is, all the time. Here's another verse that tells us that same thing:

1 Thess 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

We rejoice when the gospel of Christ is given out:

Phil 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

We rejoice that our sins are paid for by the blood of Christ:

Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

We rejoice in the scriptures, even in our sufferings:

1 Thess 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

Thirdly We Have No Confidence in the Flesh

All we could produce in our flesh was sin. That earned us death!

Rom 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

God is not happy with ANY of us --- in our bag of dirt! But He IS happy with us, as we allow Him to control our life:

Rom 8:8-9 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
9 But **ye are not in the flesh**, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Now, we can live in victory in Christ, as we deny our flesh:

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

'Denying your flesh' does not mean the same thing as 'keeping the law.'

Col 2:20-23 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

We are not under the law now. So beware of people who want to glory in your flesh, by molding you to look like (what they think would be) a good Christian person.

Gal 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

We should reject this world system, that would suck us in and stay near the cross. Don't ever get away from the cross:

Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

We have been crucified with Christ (we just read in Gal. 2:20) so let's apply that to our carnal nature, that our worship of God may be pure:

Gal 5:24-25 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Because we're crucified with Christ, we ought to live like it:

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

It is a choice that we should make and CAN make. We have but to act on it, that is, to walk in the Spirit dead to the world and sin and alive to righteousness:

Rom 6:11-12 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Now, let's go back to **Times Past**, and see that
WORSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOD

God continually instructed Israel about worship:

Deut 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

God gave them very stern warnings that He would not allow idol worship:

Deut 11:16-17 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;
17 And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

God's message about worship was plain and clear:

Exo 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

There was no room for Israel to claim ignorance about God's will for their worship. They knew beforehand what would be the consequences if they worshiped false gods. Look out below!

1 Kings 9:6-9 But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

8 And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?

9 And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.

Sacrifices were included with Israel's worship of God:

1 Chron 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name:
bring an offering, and come before him:
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

God gave Israel a specific geographical DIRECTION in which to worship Him:

2 Chron 6:38-39 If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray

- toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers,
- and • toward the city which thou hast chosen,
- and • toward the house which I have built for thy name:

39 Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

King David knew which WAY to worship God:

Psa 5:7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Psa 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple,
and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth:
 for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Israel also knew the correct POSTURE in which to worship God:

Psa 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

That's why Daniel got down on his knees toward Jerusalem when he worshipped:

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Israel would 'toggle' in and out of true worship of Jehovah:

Isa 2:8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Yes, God gave Israel plenty of admonitions about their worship:

Jer 25:6 And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

Israel had worshipped a woman called the Queen of Heaven:

Jer 44:19 And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?

Israel also had problems with astrology. Is this the dawning of the Age of Aquarius? Do the sun, moon, stars, and hosts of heaven rule your life? Does peace guide the planets? Does love steer the stars? Do you read the horoscope?

Deut 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

In the **Ages To Come**, when God's Kingdom is set up on the earth, ALL people will be required to go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord there. If they don't go, they will be sorely punished:

Zec 14:16-17 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zec 14:19-20 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Next, let's see how

WORSHIP WAS EXPERIENCED BY JESUS, GOD THE SON

Eastern scholars traveled to Jerusalem to worship the Christ, when He was yet a young child:

Matt 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He was tempted by the devil for 40 days, Satan offered a trade. He would have exchanged the power and glory of the whole world if he could persuade Christ to worship him:

Luke 4:5-8 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Jesus did not dispute Satan's authority to deliver the goods. After all, the devil is called the 'god of this world' in 2 Cor. 4:4 and the 'prince of the power of the air' in Eph. 2:2.

Christ scolded the scribes and Pharisees of Jerusalem. Their worship was worthless:

Matt 15:7-9 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

When Jesus met a Samaritan woman (in John 4:9) drawing water at a well, she already knew where Jews were supposed to worship:

John 4:20-22 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain;

and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship:
for salvation is of the Jews.

Then Jesus explained 2 of God's particular requirements when people worship Him:

John 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Jesus turned the focus of worship away from the physical place and posture to the spiritual aspect. Many people today use those 2 verses to whoop and hollar in what they call 'praise and worship.' They claim to be 'in the Spirit' and yet, in reality, they are extremely FAR away from the TRUTH, as we know and understand it ... 'rightly divided.'

But the Samaritan woman boldly persuaded her friends to listen to Christ, and thus many souls were won to the Lord:

John 4:39-42 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

There are many instances where Christ physically healed folks who worshipped Him, though keep in mind that He was ministering to Israel (not to the nations):

Matt 8:2-3 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

After Jesus walked on water and calmed the storm, His disciples worshipped Him:

Matt 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see Jesus' grave, they saw Him instead:

Matt 28:7-9 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

After His resurrection, Jesus' disciples worshipped Him:

Matt 28:16-17 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

At the end of time, God will have the true worship He alone deserves:

Rev 7:9-12 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Next, let's move into the book of Acts, and study worship with the apostle Paul.

Acts 17:22-25 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, to the UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Paul was constantly falsely accused about worship:

Acts 18:12-13 And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,

13 Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.

Paul was chased everywhere he went. There was a huge uproar in an Ephesian theater for about 2 hours over a female diety Paul had been preaching against:

Acts 19:24-27 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

Paul continually had trouble on his heels as the Jews hounded him from city to city:

Acts 24:10-15 Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:

11 Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship.

12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city:

13 Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: 15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

In his epistles, Paul gave sharp rebukes about people who did not worship God in truth:

Rom 1:24-25 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

That's going to be a problem in the future as well, when the Anti-Christ comes on the scene, as people who did not love the truth are deceived into believing his lie:

2 Thess 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Paul, who is our pattern, demonstrates **True Worship** for us:

1 Tim 1:15-17 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance,

that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. 17 **Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

True worship expresses intense love and thankfulness to God because when we believe that Christ died for our sins and rose again, He saved our poor soul.

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"