

Conclusions on Worship

The Meaning

worship, שָׁחָה shachah = to bow down, to depress, i.e. prostrate (esp. reflexive in homage to royalty or God) = bow (self) down, crouch

1. Bowing the Knee

Exo 34:8 Moses bowed low & worshiped

Psa 95:6 worship = bowing down = kneeling down

Rev 4:10 24 elders fell down & worshiped God

2. Consecrating our Lives

Rom 12:1 presenting our bodies a living & holy sacrifice = spiritual service of worship

Phil 3:3 worshiping in the Spirit = glorying in Christ Jesus = putting no confidence in the flesh

3. Following God's Word / Law

Matt 15:19 worshiping God in vain = teaching as doctrines the precepts of men

John 4:24 those who worship Him must worship in truth

Acts 18:13 worshiping God contrary to the Law

4. Demands Knowledge

John 4:22 worship is in accordance with knowledge

5. Requires being born again

John 4:24 those who worship Him must worship in spirit

The Example

worship = proskuneo = to kiss the hand, to fall on the knees, or to prostrate on the ground; to express respect or to show obedience, honor, or reverence to a divine being

Historical Context

The Samaritans were descended from Jews who intermarried with their Assyrian captors after the northern kingdom was conquered in 722 BC. These particular Jews were left behind by the Assyrians because they were not considered valuable enough to take home as spoils of war.

In Jesus' day, the Jews hated the Samaritans, who were considered half-breeds. Part Jew and part Gentile, the Samaritans couldn't prove their Israelite genealogy. The Jews avoided them at all cost and therefore wouldn't travel through Samaria, which lay between Jerusalem and Galilee.

Thus the Samaritans after being rejected by the Jews, established their own temple and religious services on Mount Gerizim.

John 4:9-29

v9-18 The Well of Living Water

v19-29 The Worship of God
- in Spirit & Truth

Note: In the New Testament, water symbolizes the Word of God (Eph 5:26) or the Holy Spirit (Jn 7:38-39).

True Worship = worshiping God

1. in Spirit (i.e. born again)
2. in Truth (i.e. the Word - Jn 17:17)

The Application

John 4:9-19

The Samaritans were not worshiping God in truth because they did not go to Jerusalem to worship in the temple as prescribed under the Old Covenant. (God had given specific instruction that the temple was going to be built in Jerusalem.)

Can there be true worship apart from the Word of God?

Phil 3:2-3

v2 beware of the dogs
the evil workers
the false circumcision
v3 we are the true circumcision
who worship in the Spirit of God
glory in Christ Jesus
put no confidence in the flesh

Do you see the contrast between worshiping in the Spirit of God and glorying in Christ and putting confidence in the flesh?

John 17:15-19

v17 sanctify them in the truth
Thy word is truth
v19 sanctified in truth
(sanctify = made holy, set apart, consecrated to God)

How critical is truth if you are going to worship God properly?

Mark 7:6-9, 13

v6 hypocrites = honoring God with lips = hearts far from God
v7 vain worship = teaching as doctrines the precepts of men
v8, 9 = neglecting the commandment of God = holding to the tradition of men
v13 = invalidating the word of God by tradition

How do people today invalidate the word of God with their tradition?

Examples of False Worship

Old Testament

1 Kings 12:25-33

v25-27 The Setting

v28-31 The System

v28 The idols – two golden calves

v29-30 The places – Bethel & Dan

v31 The priests – all Israel

v32-33 The Sacrifices

Exodus 32

Worship of the Golden Calf

Numbers 16

v1-40 The Rebellion of Korah

v41-50 The Rebellion of Israel

(c.f. Num 4:1-20 service of the Kohathites)

Leviticus 10:1-11

Nadab and Abihu offer strange fire

New Testament

Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23

Word of God vs Tradition of men

Acts 5:1-10

Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Holy Spirit

Colossians 2:18

Worship of angels

Revelation 13

v1-10 The Beast from the Sea

v11-18 The Beast from the Earth

2 Principles:

1. False worship = worshipping idols

(idols – visible e.g. images

& invisible e.g. greed, money, power ...)

2. False worship = worshipping the true God the wrong way

(e.g. golden calf, Saul offering sacrifices ...)