

# New Testament Church

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## Lesson 10

Nature of Worship; Elements of Worship; Why God is Worthy of our Worship; The Worship Activities of a Local Church

# Nature of Worship

- Two words most commonly translated worship:
  - O.T.: Hebrew word, shachah (170x); N.T.: Greek word, proskuneo (60x).
- Basic idea in each word: “To bow or prostrate oneself before a superior.”
  - “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” Then Abram **fell on his face**...(Gen. 17:2–3).
  - “And so, **falling down on his face**, he will worship God” (1 Cor. 14:25).

# Therefore...

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We should approach God with  
reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12:28).

# Nature of Worship

- And yet, we should also approach Him with “boldness” (confidence), “with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:19–22).
- Yes, He is our superior, but a superior who wants to have a relationship with us—a relationship made possible through the blood of Jesus; a relationship in which He has lavished blessings upon us.
- And so we should also worship Him with faith and confidence, and with joy and thanksgiving.

# Two important elements of worship

- Thanksgiving

- “By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, **giving thanks** to His name” (Heb. 13:15).

- Praise

- “In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You” (Heb. 2:12).
- “The twenty–four elders and the four living creatures fell down and **worshiped** God...a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘**Praise** our God, all you His servants...” (Rev. 19:4–5).

# Why Worship?

- Because He is “holy,” and because He “lives forever and ever” (Rev. 4:8–10).
- Because of the glory “due His name” (1 Chron. 16:29).
- Because “He is good,” and “His mercy endures forever” (2 Chron. 7:3).
- Because of His “lovingkindness” and “truth” (Psa. 138:1–2).
- Because “He spoke” this vast creation into existence (Psa. 33:8–9).

# Why Worship?

- “You are worthy...to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created (Rev. 4:11).
  - “He tinted skies with heavenly hue and framed the worlds with His great might.”
- Because He “daily loads us with benefits” (Psa.68:19), because He has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).
  - “What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? (Psa. 116:12).

# Why Worship?

- Because “He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand” (Psalms 95:6–7).
- Because we are “fearfully and wonderfully made,” just one example of His “marvelous” works (Psa. 139:14).
- Because “His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven” (Psalms 148:13).
- Because of His marvelous plan to deliver us from the slavery of sin (Romans 6:17).
  - “Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!”



# Why Worship?

- Because the Lamb of God was slain for us (Rev. 5:8–10).
- Because we have victory over death through Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:57).
- Because of the depth of the riches both of His wisdom and knowledge (Rom. 11:33–36).
- Because He alone is wise (1 Tim. 1:17).
- Because we become more and more like the object of our worship (Psa. 115:8; 135:18).

# God-ward nature of worship

- **Preaching:** Preach God's word (2 Tim. 4:2); "For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord" (2 Cor. 4:5).
- **Singing:** "with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16); "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19).
- **Lord's Supper:** "Do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Cor. 11:24).
- **Prayer:** Obviously directed to God.
- **Giving:** We give a portion to Him of what He has given us, and all for His work. Brings glory to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:19).

# Giving

- Just like local churches in the N.T., local churches today need money to operate. How do we raise it, according to the N.T.?
- Raffles, bake sales, appeals to the community—from heaven, or from men?
- On which day of the week did they take this collection?
- Giving is often spoken of as tithing. Is that what the N.T. teaches?

# The Manner in Which We Give

- Cheerfully, with great joy
  - Brethren from Macedonia gave out of the “abundance of their **joy**” (2 Cor. 8:2).
  - “Not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a **cheerful** giver” (2 Cor. 9:7).
    - “Cheerful” from the Greek word, hilaros. Vine: “readiness of mind, that joyousness, which is prompt to do anything; hence cheerful (English: hilarious).”
  - Think about the needs we’ve relieved (brother in Italy; LA brethren); and more importantly, the souls we’ve reached with the gospel.

# The Manner in Which We Give

- Purposely
  - “They glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ” (2 Cor. 9:13).
  - “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart” (2 Cor. 9:7).
  - “Lay something aside” (purpose) and give on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1).

# The Manner in Which We Give

- With love
  - “First gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God” (2 Cor. 8:5).
    - “Have thine affections been nailed to the cross?”
  - “I am testing the sincerity of your **love**” (2 Cor. 8:8).
  - “Show to them, and before the churches the proof of your **love**” (2 Cor. 8:24).

# The Manner in Which We Give

- In faith
  - “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (2 Cor. 9:6).
  - Liberal giving is a test of faith! Do we believe God will take care of us (bless us) if we give liberally?
  - Givers are “storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come...” (1 Tim. 6:19).