

Solution to Study 0059

New Covenant Era Worship: Introduction (1)

Going through our conclusion on worship under the Old Covenant Era, it seems very much like we were speaking about Christianity today, as against, people who were living under the Old Covenant. This is because we find among Christians today, many of the concerns and failures as was found among Old Covenant worshippers. For example, (*you are required to search the scriptures provided and make notes about the issues raised*):

1. Many of the people in our churches today think that God’s interest in worship, is just to come to church on a Sunday for a few minutes or hours; without their having any relationship whatsoever with God. *So, what does the bible say about the kind of relationship that is required before a person can truly worship God?* (**John 3:1-7; 4:19-24; 1:11-13**)

The kind of relationship required before a person can truly worship God is that of a personal and Father-Son relationship. It is not a relationship based on religious affinity or titles, ancestral claims (e.g., statements like, “My father was the first pastor of the church, and that’s how I became a Christian”), church attendance, or group/corporate affiliations (e.g., worship team, evangelism, youth fellowship, Men’s Fellowship, etc.).

2. Many of the people in our churches today don’t seem to know that there is an acceptable way as well as an unacceptable way to worship God, so, they go about inventing their own way to worship God, in clear contradiction to God’s way. *So, what does the bible tell us about the acceptable or pleasing way to worship God, and by implication, the unacceptable way?* (**John 4:19-24; Hebrews 10:19-22; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 12:28; Matthew 5:21-24; 15:7-9; Hebrews 11:6; 1 Samuel 15:22**)

<u>Acceptable/Pleasing Worship of God</u>	<u>Unacceptable Worship of God</u>
1) In Spirit and in truth and is based on a personal relationship with God.	In the flesh which is usually emotional, and may be based on ancestral claims or religious affiliations.
2) With a clean heart in faith toward God.	With an impure/unrepentant heart, and without faith (just going through the motions)
3) By presenting our bodies to God as living sacrifices (holy & acceptable); and whether or not it is convenient.	Worship that require no sacrifices on our part—that is, one of convenience and comfort.
4) With reverence (respect, modesty, shamefacedness) and godly fear (holy trembling knowing that our God is a consuming fire who frowns at sin).	Without reverence and without godly fear. No concern whatsoever for the holiness of God, no concern with the way we conduct ourselves, including our outward appearance.
5) With forgiveness in our hearts.	With unforgiveness still in our hearts.
6) With a unity in word and thought; i.e., our mouths should be saying to God, what is really happening in our hearts.	With hypocrisy: drawing near to God with our mouth, but having keeping our hearts far from Him.
7) Based on God’s precepts as contained in the bible.	Based on our own imaginations, the doctrines of men and of Satan.
8) Based on obedience to God and His word	Based on sacrifices without obedience to God

3. Many people in our churches today, don't seem to know that our salvation from sin, which is like the deliverance of Israel of old from Egypt, is to enable us worship God. So, rather than focus on learning how to worship God, and actually doing so, they are focused on the benefits they can receive from salvation. *But what does the bible teach about the reason why we are saved from sin, apart from it enabling us to go to heaven?* (**Hebrews 9:13-14; 1 Peter 2:9; Exodus 5:1; 8:1**)

We are saved to:

- Serve/worship God
- Show forth the praises (the goodness, mercy, forgiveness, love, justice, power, etc.,) of God

4. Many of the people in our churches worship God only because they want Him to do something for them; we are rather to worship Him because He is God! *What does the bible say about why we should worship God?* (**Revelation 4:11; 5:8-14; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Daniel 4:34-37; Romans 11:36**)

The bible teaches that we should worship God because:

- He created us for His pleasure (according to His will)
- He has redeemed us from the power of sin and death
- He is the Authority over all things
- Everything comes from Him and exist by Him (His will)

5. Many of the people in our churches want out of the 'wilderness' at the earliest, without having learnt how to worship God—which is something that all new believers should take time to master, through the laying of a proper Christian foundation. *What does the bible teach us about laying a proper foundation?* (**1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20; 4:11-14; Acts 2:41-42; 14:22; Matthew 13:20-21; 7:24-27; Hebrews 6:1-2**)

- Our Christianity/Christian foundation must be based on the foundation of Christ
- Our Christianity/Christian foundation must also be built on the foundation of the teachings of the apostles and prophets, as contained in the New Testament
 - ✓ By continuing in the doctrines they have laid down
 - ✓ By continually having fellowship with other Christians
- Without a proper foundation being laid, we would not be able to overcome the trials, tribulations, and challenges of life when they do come to us.
- Without depth in a person, his Christianity will always flounder when trials arise.
- We should be diligent hearers and prompt doers of the teachings of Christ.
- The Christian foundation which must be firmly laid in our lives are:
 - ✓ Repentance from works/things which lead to death (i.e., repentance from sin, sinful living, carnality, and worldliness)
 - ✓ Faith towards God (not toward anyone/anything else)

- ✓ Teachings about baptisms (how we must be completely immersed in Christ, and be one with Him—in His Body, out of this world, in His Spirit, and in His suffering)
- ✓ Teachings about laying on of hands (how to bless and be blessed with the laying on of hands)
- ✓ Teachings about the resurrection of the dead (the truth about resurrection of those who die in Christ, and of those who die without Christ)
- ✓ Teachings about eternal judgment (the truth about the judgment of God on those who die in Christ, and those who die without Christ)

Review

We shall continue from here next week, but for now, let us review our notes and the scriptures provided, and evaluate our personal relationship with God, and our worship of God. Where we need to repent, let us do so, and return to our first love with unfeigned lips and a pure heart (**Hosea 6:1-2; 14:1-3**). Let us also commit ourselves to the true worship of God, and ensure that we have opened ourselves up to the proper laying of the Christian foundation in our lives. **Note:** whatever it is that you desire, in so far as it is in the will of God for your life, He will give it to you. However, don't worship God because you want Him to do something for you, rather, worship Him because He is worthy of your worship, having created, saved and sanctified you in Him!