

Study 0073

Worship Under the New Covenant (9)

We have seen that the gifts to the Church play very critical roles in the true worship of God: the Apostle establishes the true worship of God; the Prophet seeks to maintain it; the Evangelist seeks idol/false worshippers, brings them through the preaching of the word of God, to be converted to the worship of God, and thus become true worshippers of God; the Pastor ensures that these converts remain spiritually healthy and continue to worship God; and, the Teacher instructs these worshippers of God, through progressive teachings, on how to worship the One true God. As individual worshippers of God gather together in the worship of God, it is then that the Church is truly worshipping God as a Body (**Matthew 18:20**). Thus, the worship of the One true God by the Church takes place when individual worshippers come together through the agency of the Holy Spirit, and the operation of the gifts for spiritual service (**1 Corinthians 12:4-6**), in holiness and righteousness (**Luke 1:74-75**). Such true worship does not involve idolatrous practices of chanting incantations, lewd ritual dancing, etc.; nor, does it involve human ideas on the worship of God (**Matthew 15:2-9**).

Texts: 2 Chronicles 15:3-6; Ephesians 2:11-22

In **2 Chronicles 15:3-6**, the bible tells us that when the Northern kingdom of Israel did not have priests whose function it was to teach the word of God to the people, and the resultant absence of the teachings of the word of God, they became estranged from God as they no longer had knowledge of God, nor were they intimate with Him; hence, there was no peace in the land—only wars and vexations among the tribes and communities. In **Ephesians 2:11-22**, we see a similar occurrence. When the Gentiles were without the knowledge of Christ, and, obviously had no intimacy with Him, they were alienated from citizenship of God's spiritual kingdom, the covenant of God was foreign to them, and, they were hopeless and godless in this world. It was the death of Christ on the cross, however, which made it possible for the Gentiles to be brought into favour with God, and to become members of the family of God, along with the benefits thereof, including having peace with God. The Gentiles, who were not a people of God, had now become God's people; chosen of God, to display the glory and wisdom of God to the world (**1 Peter 2:9-10**), and to principalities and powers (**Ephesians 3:10**), through the coming together of believing Gentiles and believing Jews (one time enemies) to worship God. This was always God's plan—for both Jews and Gentiles, to worship Him as one family (**Ephesians 3:1-11**). It is the knowledge of God through salvation that makes this possible. Indeed, the personal and intimate knowledge of God is very critical to the worship of God (**Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 4:21-22**), and this is the reason the Lord gave gifts to the Church (**Ephesians 4:11-14**).

ASSIGNMENT

As we draw the curtain on the global theme, “**worship**”, in this study, our assignment is to know what the true worship of God involves, and how to maintain it.

1. What is, and what is not, the true worship of God? (**John 4:20-24; Joshua 24:14; Luke 1:74-75; Exodus 10:3-26; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Acts 14:8-18; Matthew 15:2-9; Colossians 2:20-23**)

2. God’s desire is that men in all ages and from all nations will worship Him in spirit and in truth. How is this achieved? (**Habakkuk 2:14; Psalm 22:27; Acts 8:4-8; 11:19-21; Romans 15:19-21; Mark 16:15-20; Proverbs 6:6-11; Psalm 126:5-6; 2 Timothy 4:2-5**)

3. Whose worship may not be acceptable to God? (**Psalm 50:14-22; Isaiah 1:10-15; 1 Samuel 15:22-23; Hebrews 13:13-15**)

4. What can we do to ensure that the true worship of God is maintained in the Church? (**John 2:13-16; Matthew 21:12-17; 1 Kings 18:30-40**)

Conclusion

The true worship of God is more than singing and dancing; and it is more than being in church on service days. In reality, it is our dedication and devotion to God in our service to Him, in our heeding His word, and in our living godly lives as a testimony before those who do not yet believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. We, being priests of the most high God, have been born again, filled with His Spirit, and, given divine gifts, with which we should worship God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our minds. Our service to God must be in humility and holiness, with simplicity and compassion for mankind, and, with love for God from our hearts. And as we yield to the Holy Spirit, He it is, Who helps us to truly worship God in spirit and in truth!