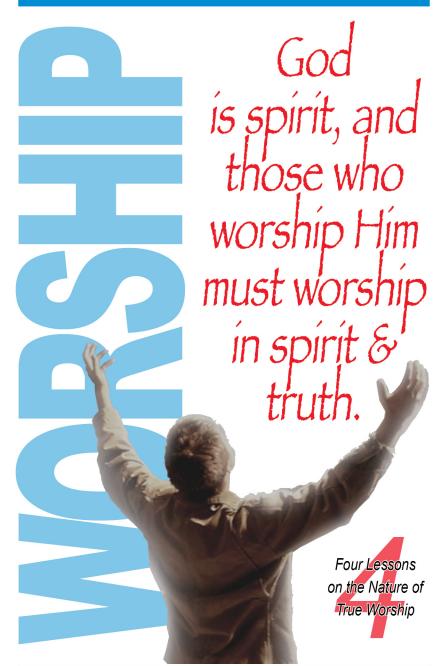
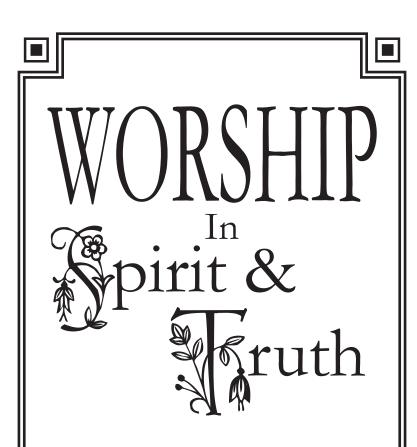
WORSHIP



By Pastor Stephen Hildebrandt



This Book Belongs To:

Written & Edited by Pastor Stephen Hildebrandt © April 2007

Dedicated to the men of Grace Community Church at their eleventh annual men's retreat, April 20-21, 2007.

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Lesson 1. The *Importance* of Worship. Eph. 1:5-6 - God's Chief End & Man's.

Pages 1-14 What is biblical worship? What isn't it? How does the church slip into non-biblical forms of worship? What is the only proper object of worship? Why is the study of worship so important? What is man's chief end and God's? What do the first and second commandments tell us about worship?

2

Lesson 2. The *Manner* of Worship. John 4:20-24 - Two Essential Ingredients.

Pages 15-28 What is the difference between the "mode" and "manner" of worship? Is there more than one acceptable mode or manner? The Bible says that God seeks true worshipers, but where and how? What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? What is the regulative principle of worship?

3

Lesson 3. The *Lifestyle* of Worship. Romans 12:1 - Becoming a Living Sacrifice.

Pages 29-40 How is a sacred / secular division in daily life detrimental to true worship? Do Jesus' statements in John 4:20-21 diminish centralized corporate worship? How are personal and corporate worship related? How can worship be a lifestyle? What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?



Lesson 4. The *Perspective* of Worship. Psalm 89:6-7 - Who is Like the Lord?

Pages 41-58 How do our perspectives of God and man affect our attitude toward worship? What is God's transcendence? How is Christian meditation different from eastern meditation? Should Christian's fear God? How does the fear of the Lord relate to worship? Why is worship the ultimate priority?

Foreword

erhaps the greatest need in all

of Christendom is for a clear Qunderstanding of the biblical teaching about worship. When the church fails to worship properly, it fails in every other area. And the world is suffering because of its failure. Much of the world offers false worship, the kind of worship that focuses on material things, on ritual or form, or even on divine blessings; or a kind of worship that follows a self-styled form or demonstrates a wrong attitude. God will not accept it. The Bible is explicit on that. We must seek a fresh understanding of worship. God has commanded it. Our ministry depends on it. It is crucial to our relationship to Him

John MacArthur, Jr. *The Ultimate Priority*

and our testimony in this world. We cannot

afford to ignore it. Too much is at stake."-1



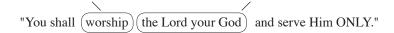
Lesson 1. The *Importance* of Worship. Eph. 1:5-6 - God's Chief End & Man's.

Lesson 1 Outline

A.	What is Worship?	1
В.	Seven Deadlies (Deadly "E's") of Worship	3
C.	Why is the Study of Worship So Important?	5
D.	The Decalogue on Worship	9

A. What is Worship?

- 1. "Worship" is a Transitive Verb.
- a. A transitive verb requires a direct object. Examples:
 - · Alexander Graham Bell invented ...
 - Christopher Columbus discovered ...
- b. Diagram Matthew 4:10 below:



2. Definition.

- a. Generic: An all-consuming adoration or devotion to a person, place, or thing.
- b. Biblical: Old English (c. 1300), weorðscipe
- c. According to Jesus' statement in Matthew 4:10 (above), the ONLY proper direct object of "worship"



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"God" is a universal term used in many culture and in many religions. Which "god" does the Bible say is the only proper object of worship? Read John 5:23b, John 14:6, 1 John 2:23, then answer.	е
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"Worship can be defined as ascribing worth to God, through the vessel of a holy life, according to how God has ascribed worth to Himself as revealed in the Word of God." - 2

Steve Camp (1955 - Present)



B. Seven Deadlies (Deadly "E's") of Worship.

Biblical Worship is NOT:

1. a Euphoric Emotion.

• Goose bumps ≠ worship.

2. an Emotionless Exercise.

• <u>Isaiah 29:13</u> - "... this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lips, but their *hearts* are far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote"

3. an Eerie or Exotic Experience.

• e.g. The Toronto Movement - animal sounds, vomiting, uncontrollable "holy" laughter.

4. an Entertainment Event.

Seeker-sensitive church excesses.

5. an Evaluation of External Elements.

 Grading the worship service based on personal preferences or entertainment value.

6. an Ego-Centric Enterprise.

- "To pretend homage to God and intend only the advantage to myself is rather to mock God than to worship Him. When we believe we ought to be satisfied rather than God glorified, we set God below ourselves and imagine that He should submit His own honor to our advantages." -3
- Not "What did I get out of worship?", but "What did God get?"

7. an Elaborate Ecclesiastical Exhibition.

- Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men ..."
- How can external religious trappings replace true worship?

Worship, a Means or an End?

"For thousands of people, and for many pastors, the event of "worship" on Sunday mornings is conceived of as a means to accomplish something other than worship. We "worship" to raise money; we "worship" to attract crowds; we "worship" to heal human hurts; to recruit workers; to improve church morale; to give talented musicians an opportunity to fulfill their calling; to teach our children the way of righteousness; to help marriages stay together; to evangelize the lost; to motivate people for service projects; to give our churches a family feeling. In all of this we bear witness that we do not know what true worship is. Genuine affections for God are an end in themselves. I cannot say to my wife: "I feel a strong delight in you so that you will make me a nice meal." That is not the way delight works. It terminates on her. It does not have a nice meal in view. ... I do not deny that authentic corporate worship may have a hundred good effects on the life of the church. It will, just like true affection in marriage, make everything better. My point is that to the degree that we do "worship" for these reasons, to that degree it ceases to be authentic worship. Keeping satisfaction in God at the center guards us from that tragedy." - 4

> John Piper (1946-Present) God's Passion for His Glory

C. Why is the Study of Worship So Important?

- 1. Worship is Man's Chief End.
- a. Scripture.
 - 1 Cor. 10:31 "whatever you do, do all to the ______ of God."
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ... so that in all things God may be *glorified* through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the *glory* and dominion forever and ever. Amen."
- b. Westminster Catechism. Question 1:
 - Q. What is man's chief end?
 - A. Man's chief end is to ______ God and enjoy Him forever.



- c. God's Purpose for Man's Salvation Revealed in Ephesians.
 - Eph. 1:5-6 "[the Father] predestined us ... to the praise of the glory of His grace"
 - Eph. 1:7, 12 "In [*Christ*] we have redemption through His blood ... to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory."
 - Eph. 1:13-14 "you were sealed in Him with the *Holy Spirit* ... to the praise of His glory."
 - God saved me for

"Because we were created to worship, worship is the normal employment of moral beings.... It is something that is built into human nature." - 5



A. W. Tozer (1879-1963)

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Worship Lesson 1

God's People were Chosen for Worship

"He predestined us ... to the praise of the glory of His grace."

The Importance of Worship Ephesians 1:5-6

2. Worship is God's Chief End Too.

- <u>Isaiah 42:8</u> "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My *glory* to another, nor My praise to graven images."
- <u>John 12:28</u> Jesus said, "'Father, glorify Thy name.' There came therefore a voice out of heaven: 'I have both *glorified* it, and will *glorify* it again.'"
- John 17:5 Jesus prayed, "And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

3. Unacceptable Worship has Dire Consequences.

- a. Worship can be Acceptable or Unacceptable to God.
 - Example: Cain & Abel (Genesis 4:3-5).
- b. The Consequences of Unacceptable Worship.
 - Exodus 20:4-5 "You shall not make for yourself an idol ... You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me"
 - Exodus 32 3000 people died because they worshiped the golden calf fashioned by Aaron.
 - <u>Leviticus 10:1-2</u> Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, offered unauthorized fire before the Lord and fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them.
 - <u>1 Samuel 15:13-23</u> Saul rejected as king for offering the spoils of war for a sacrifice, contrary to God's command.
 - 1 Chronicles 13:9-10 Uzzah touched the ark to keep it from tipping over and he died.

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D. The Decalogue on Worship.

1. The First Commandment.

- Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."
- What does the first commandment tell us about worship?

1. You shall
have no 🦡
other gods
other gods before Me.
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2. The Second Commandment.

- Exodus 20:4-6 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."
- What does the second commandment tell us about worship?



Unacceptable Objects of Worship

Statues.

• Exodus 20:4-5 - "You shall not make for yourself an idol ... You shall not worship them or serve them"

Angels.

- <u>Colossians 2:18</u> "Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in ... the worship of the angels"
- Revelation 22:8-9 "I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things And he said to me, 'Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours ... worship God."

People, e.g. Saints, Mary.

• Acts 14:11-15 - "the multitudes ... raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have become like men and have come down to us.' And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you..."

Creatures.

• Romans 1:25 - "For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."









Additional Notes

Additional Notes

Selah. Pause & Meditate.

~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

Read Psalm 115:3-7 and Jeremiah 10:3-5. Most Americans would think worshiping carved images is primitive and backward, but what other idols do Americans worship? Write some of our "American idols" across the face of the map below.



2 Read Psalm 33:12, Proverbs 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2. and then close in prayer.

Private Devotions

Exodus 20:3. No Other Gods.

Review the list on page 13 (left), and then re-read Exodus 20:3. In your own life, do any of these things hinder you from worshiping God with *all* your heart, soul, strength and might? List two or three below.

1
2
3
1 Thess. 1:9. Turning Point.
Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9. Why did Paul commend the Thessalonians? What steps will you take to turn from the "idols" you listed above?



Lesson 2. The *Manner* of Worship. John 4:20-24 - Two Essential Ingredients.

Lesson 2 Outline

A.	Jesus & the Woman at the Well	15
В.	Manner Versus Mode of Worship	17
C.	What does it Mean to Worship in Spirit?	19
D.	What does it Mean to Worship in Truth?	21
E.	God Seeks True Worshipers	23

A. Jesus & the Woman at the Well.

1. John, chapter 4:

- 20 [The Samaritan woman said to Jesus] "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."
- 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father.
- 22 You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews.
- 23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
- 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. Two Mountains / Two Manners of Worship.

- a. Mt. Gerizim Samaritan Worship "Enthusiastic Heresy". 6
 - Spirit without truth (John 4:22)
- b. Mt. Zion Jewish Worship "Lifeless Orthodoxy". 7
 - Truth without spirit (Matt. 15:8)

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B. Manner Versus Mode of Worship.

- 1. The MANNER of Worship. The Essential Elements.
- "God is spirit, and those who worship Him *must* worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24
- The *ONLY* acceptable manner of worship is:

Write in the last four words of John 4:24

- **2.** The MODE of Worship. *The External Style*.
- Exclusive Psalmnody Psalms only.
 Example: Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPC)
- Exclusive Hymnody Traditional Hymns only.
 Example: Some Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterians.
- No Instruments *a cappella*. Examples: Amish, Primitive Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, Eastern Orthodox Church, Church of Christ.
- Contemporary Christian Music.

How Does God Judge Worship?

"God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

~ 1 Samuel 16:7 ~

"... true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship." -8



John Piper (1946-Present)

N ⋅ O ⋅ T ⋅ E ⋅ S What factors can affect the mode of worship?

Worship Lesson 2

The Only Acceptable Manner of Worship

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Manner of Worship

John 4:24

C. What does it Mean to Worship in Spirit?

1. Little "s" or Big "S"?

• <u>John 4:24</u> - "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in <u>spirit</u> and truth."

2. Worship with spirit - i.e. With ALL My Heart.

- Psalm 103:1 "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name."
- Psalm 111:1 "Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly."
- Psalm 66:1-2 "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious."
- <u>2 Sam. 6:14</u> "And David was dancing before the Lord with all his might..."

3. Worship in Spirit - i.e. the Holy Spirit.

- Philippians 3:3 "... for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh"
- a. Saved Possessed by the Spirit.
- Romans 8:8-9 "... and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."
- b. Surrendered Filled with the Spirit.
 - Eph. 5:18 "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit"

"So if you don't have the Spirit of God within you, prompting your heart, motivating your heart, cleansing your heart, and instructing your heart worship isn't going to happen. God cannot be worshiped without His Spirit energizing that worship."-9



John MacArthur, Jr. (1939 - Present)

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"Timid, tame domesticated adoration plays no part in heaven's chorus" - 10

D. A. Carson (1946-Present)



D. What does it Mean to Worship in Truth?

Acts 17:22-23

"And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."



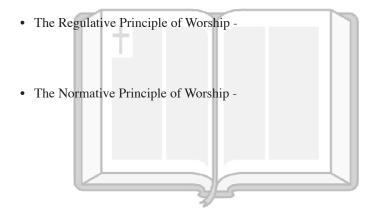
1. Is Truth Subjective or Objective?

• John 18:38 - "Pilate said to [Jesus], 'What is truth?'"

2. The Only Infallible Rule for Faith and Practice.

• John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy Word is truth."

3. Sola Scriptura.



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"It is of great importance to note that our theology (belief about God) and doxology (our worship of God) should never be separated. It is not possible to worship an unknown God. All true worship is a response to the self-revelation of God in Christ and in Scripture. Worship without theology is bound to degenerate into idolatry. Hence the indispensable place of scripture in both public worship and private devotion. It is the word of God which calls forth the worship of God."- 11

John Stott (1921-Present)



E. God Seeks True Worshipers.

1. Jesus' Reveals the Heart of True Worship.

• <u>John 4:23</u> - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the *true worshipers* shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father *seeks* to be His worshipers."

2. Where does God find True Worshipers?

 <u>Luke 19:10</u> - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

3. Saved for What?

- a. God *predestined* me to worship Him.
- Eph. 1:5-6 "[God the Father] predestined us ... to the praise of the glory of His grace"
- <u>1 Peter 2:9</u> "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"
- b. God saved me to worship Him.
 - Eph. 1:7, 12 "In [Christ] we have redemption ... to the praise of His glory."

4. Evangelism, a Means or an End?

- a. Our Great Commission: Evangelism < MEANS
- b. Our Great Acclamation: Worship < END

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"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever." - 12



John Piper (1946-Present)

Additional Notes

Additional Notes

Selah. Pause & Meditate.

~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

David writes, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and *all* that is within me, bless His holy name" (Psalm 103:1). The Bible records that David worshiped "with *all* his might" (2 Sam. 6:14) and God called him "a man after My own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). List some things that would be noticeably present in the worship of people that worshiped like that? What would be absent?

Present Absent

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 2 God is seeking true worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). How can those who truly wish to worship God on Sunday morning prepare their heart beforehand to worship this way?

Private Devotions

2 Sam. 6:14. With All Your Might.

What changes / preparations do you need to make in your own life to bring about the type of worship discussed on page 27 (left).

2
3
Eph. 1:7, 12. Saved for Worship.
God saved me to worship Him. Meditate on that thought and write a short prayer of dedication below.



Lesson 3. The *Lifestyle* of Worship. Rom. 12:1 - Becoming a Living Sacrifice.

Lesson 3 Outline

A.	Break Out of a Sacred / Secular Mind-Set	29
В.	The Sacrament of Living	31
C.	Corporate Worship, the Tip of the Iceberg	35

A. Break out of a Sacred / Secular Mind-Set.

1. Definitions.

- "Sacred" Things that we consider are dedicated to God for a religious purpose, such as the Bible, church buildings, prayer, worship, etc.
- "Secular" Things that we tend to think have no religious or spiritual basis, such as eating, driving and work.

2. The Bible Urges No Such Distinctions.

- 1 Cor. 10:31 "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
- Col. 3:17 "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

3. Jesus' Life had No Sacred / Secular Distinctions.

• John 8:29 - "I always do the things that are pleasing to Him"

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B. The Sacrament of Living. 3 Steps:

Coram Deo: Recognize that you live every moment before the face of God.

- Gen. 16:13 "Thou art a God who sees"; Hebrew: El Roee
- <u>2 Chron. 16:9</u> "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."
- Job 11:11 "He sees iniquity without investigating."
- Job 28:24 "For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens."
- Job 31:4 "Does He not see my ways, and number all my steps?"
- Job 34:21 "His eyes are upon the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps."
- <u>Psalm 33:13-15</u> "The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; from His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works."
- Psalm 44:21 "He knows the secrets of the heart."
- <u>Psalm 69:5</u> "O God, it is Thou who dost know my folly, and my wrongs are not hidden from Thee."
- <u>Psalm 90:8</u> "Thou hast placed our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy presence."
- Psalm 139:1-4 "Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou dost know
 when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou dost understand my thought from
 afar. Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, and art intimately
 acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue,
 behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all."
- Prov. 5:21 "For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all"
- Jer. 12:3 "But Thou knowest me, O Lord; Thou seest me; and Thou dost examine my heart's attitude toward Thee...."
- Jer. 16:17 "For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes."
- Jer. 23:24 "'Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?'
 declares the Lord. 'Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?'
- <u>Dan. 2:22</u> "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness"
- Heb. 4:13 "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

"The highest form of worship is hearing God's Word with an obedient life and then living in submission to its truth." - 13

Martin Luther (1483-1546)



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"God created us to live with a single passion: to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life." - 14

John Piper (1946-Present)



2. Dedicate even routine activities to the Lord as sacred acts of worship.

- Rom. 12:1 "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."
- 1 Cor. 9:23 "I do all things for the sake of the gospel"
- 1 Cor. 10:31 "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
- Phil. 1:21-22 "For to me, to live is Christ"
- <u>Col. 3:17</u> "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

3. Let praise and thanksgiving be the first-fruit of your lips during routine activities.

- <u>1 Thess. 5:16-18</u> "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- <u>Heb. 13:15</u> "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."
- Clement of Alexandria "Worship is celebration. All of life is a festival: being persuaded that God is everywhere present on all sides, we praise Him as we till the ground, we sing hymns as we sow the seed, we feel His inspiration in all we do." -15

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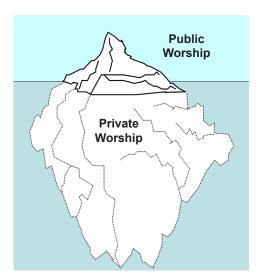
"We must offer all our acts to God and believe that He accepts them. Then hold firmly to that position and keep insisting that every act of every hour of the day and night be included in the transaction. Keep reminding God in our times of private prayer that we mean every act for His glory; then supplement those times by a thousand thought-prayers as we go about the job of living. Let us practice the fine art of making every work a priestly ministration. Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there." - 16

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963) Pursuit of God Chapter 10 Sacrament of Living



C. Corporate Worship ... Just the Tip of the Iceberg.

1. Private Worship.



Psalm 35:18 - "I will give Thee thanks in the great congregation; I will praise Thee among a mighty throng."

Matthew 6:6 - "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

2. Public Worship.

- a. Do Jesus' statements in John 4:20-21 diminish centralized corporate worship?
- <u>John 4:20-21</u> "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father.'"
- b. Corporate worship is still essential.
- <u>Heb. 10:24-25</u> "and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

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Worship Lesson 3

A Lifestyle of Worship

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

The Lifestyle of Worship

Romans 12:1

Additional Notes

Additional Notes

Selah. Pause & Meditate.

~ Individual or Small Group Bible Study ~

- 1 Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 again. Discuss how a Christian can eat or drink (or do any other routine activity) to the glory of God?
- 2 Read Romans 2:17-23 from a Bible before proceeding further. This passage was written to the Jews who had fallen into a sacred / secular mind-set, i.e. acting holy sometimes and worldly other times. Now, re-read the same verses as they might be applied to the Christian Church today:

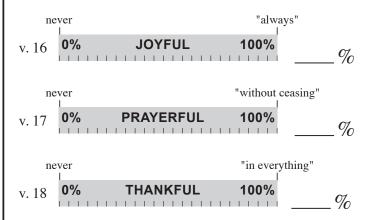
"But if you bear the name "[Christian]," and rely upon the [Bible], and boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the [Bible], 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the [Bible] the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, 21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you [look at women in lust]? You who abhor idols, do you rob [God of tithes and offerings]? 23 You who boast in the [Bible], through your breaking the [Bible], do you dishonor God?"

How does sacred / secular division in our thinking affect our testimony?

Private Devotions

1 Thess. 5:16-18. 24 / 7 Worship

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Notice that the adverbs "always", "without ceasing", and "in everything" relate to time. How much time in your daily routine do you exhibit these qualities? Take a personal inventory and then spend some time talking to God about it.



Matthew 6:6. Private Worship.

Is your worship life pretty much "What you *see* is what you get", or is the majority of your worship done privately, hidden from public view, like the other 9/10 of the iceberg hidden below the surface? Below, write three adjectives that describe your private worship practice.



Lesson 4. The *Perspective* of Worship. Psalm 89:6-7 - Who is Like the Lord?

Lesson 4 Outline

A.	The Problem of Perspective	41
В.	The Transcendence of God	43
C.	When God is Big there is a Wholesome Fear	49
D.	Worship: The Ultimate Priority	53

A. The Problem of Perspective.

- 1. When Problems are Big, God is Small.
- Matthew 14:22-33 When the waves of adversity seem big ... faith in God is small.
- <u>Luke 8:22-25</u> Where is the safest place on earth?
- 2. Let Jesus turn your Whine into Worship.
 - Psalm 61:2 "...when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I." (KJV)



Israel at the Red Sea

Turning Whine into Worship

- 1. What was Israel's overwhelming situation? (Ex. 14:6-9)
- 2. How did Israel get backed up against Red Sea? (Ex. 13:18, 21-14:2)
- 3. What was Israel's response to their circumstances? (Ex. 14:10-12)
- 4. What was their response to God's deliverance? (Ex. 14:31- chap. 15)



B. The Transcendence of God.

1. Who is Like the Lord Our God?

- <u>Isaiah 40:12</u> "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance, and the hills in a pair of scales?"
- <u>Isaiah 40:15</u> "Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust."
- <u>Isaiah 40:25-26</u> "To whom then will you liken Me That I should be his equal?" says the Holy One. <u>26</u> Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing."
- <u>Isaiah 55:9</u> "For a the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."
- Psalm 113:5-6 "Who is like the Lord our God, Who is enthroned on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth?"
- Acts 17:24-26 ""The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation"

"When we speak of God as transcendent we mean of course that He is exalted far above the created universe, so far above that human thought cannot imagine it."-17



A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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2. "Awesome" should be a Reserved Word.

- Job 37:22 "Around God is awesome majesty."
- Psalm 22:23 "You who fear the Lord, praise Him... glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him"
- Psalm 33:8 "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him."
- Psalm 66:5 "Come and see the works of God, Who is *awesome* in His deeds toward the sons of men."
- <u>Psalm 89:6-7</u> "For who in the skies is comparable to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the Lord, a God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, and *awesome* above all those who are around Him?

3. The Early Church.

Acts 2:43 - "And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe"

4. Where is the Church's Sense of Awe Today?

Malachi 1:6 - "A son honors his father, and a servant his master.
 Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?"

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Worship Lesson 4

One Incomparable God Worthy of Worship

"For who in the skies is comparable to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the Lord, a God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all those who are around Him?

The Perspective of Worship

Psalm 89:6-7

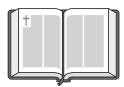
5. Meditation: Our Magnifyir g Glass

a. How is eastern meditation different from Christian meditation?



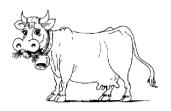
• Eastern Meditation.





b. Chew on God's Word!

- Psalm 77:12 "I will *meditate* on all Thy work, and muse on Thy deeds."
- Psalm 111:2 "Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them."
- <u>Psalm 119:27</u> "I will *meditate* on Thy wonders."
- <u>Psalm 143:5</u> "I *meditate* on all Thy doings"
- <u>Psalm 145:5</u> "On the glorious splendor of Thy majesty, and on Thy wonderful works, I will *meditate*."
- <u>2 Tim. 2:15</u> "*Study* to show yourself approved ... handling accurately the word of truth."



Contemplation of God

he highest science, and the loftiest speculation, and the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of the child of God is the name, the nature, the Person, the work, The doings and the existence of the great God whom we call Father. There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity, so deep that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can compass and grapple with and then we feel a kind of self-content and go our way with a thought, "Behold, I am wise." But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumb line cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought that vain man would be wise, but he is like a donkey. And with solemn explanation, we say I am but of yesterday and know nothing. No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind than thoughts of God. But while the subject humbles the mind, it also expands it. He who often thinks of God will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe. This most excellent study expands the soul. It is the science of Christ and Him crucified and the knowledge of the Godhead and the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify whole soul of man, as a devout earnest continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity. An whilst humbling and expanding, this subject is eminently conciliatory. O there is in contemplating Christ a balm for every wound. In musing on the Father there is a quietus for every grief. And in the influence of the Holy Ghost there is a balsam for every sore. Would you lose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? Then go, plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea. Be lost in His immensity and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul, so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief, so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead. - 18

Sermon, delivered on Jan. 7, 1855 by Charles Haddon Spurgeon

C. When God is Big there is a Wholesome Fear.

1. The Fear of the Lord is Not Natural to Man.

- Romans 3:18 "There is *no fear* of God before their eyes." (cf. Psalm 36:1)
- Before the Fall, man had NOTHING to fear but God. After the Fall, man feared EVERYTHING but God.

2. The Fear of the Lord is a Gift of God's Grace.

- <u>Jeremiah 32:39-40</u> "and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may *fear* Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the *fear* of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me."
- John Newton "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear"

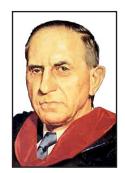
3. The Fear of the Lord is an Attitude:

- a. Toward Wickedness.
- Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil"
- b. Toward the **Word of God**.
- <u>Isaiah 66:2</u> "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who *trembles* at My Word."
- c. Toward *Worship*.
- Psalm 2:11 "Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with *trembling*."

4. The Fear of the Lord Eclipses Every Other Fear.

- Psalm 27:1-3 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? 2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident."
- <u>Deut. 7:21</u> "You shall not dread them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God."

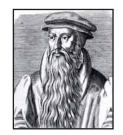
"The fear of God in which godliness consists is the fear which constrains [compels or powerfully produces] adoration and love. It is the fear which consists in awe, reverence, honor, and worship, and all of these on the highest level of exercise. It is the realization in our consciousness of the transcendent majesty and holiness of God."- 19



John Murray (1898-1975)

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As they buried Scottish Reformer John Knox, it was said, "Here lies one who feared God so much that he never feared the face of any man." During Knox's life, [Catholic] Mary Queen of Scots said, "I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe." It is an old adage, but still true: "Fear God and your enemies will fear you." - 20



John Knox (1505-1572)

The Fear of the Lord in the Old Testament

- <u>Deut. 6:13</u> "You shall *fear* only the Lord your God"
- <u>Deut. 10:12</u> "...what does the Lord your God require from you, but to *fear* the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul"
- 1 Sam. 12:24 "Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."
- 2 Chron. 19:7 "Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness..."
- Psalm 2:11 "Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling."
- <u>Psalm 22:23</u> "You who *fear* the Lord, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him ..."
- <u>Psalm 33:8</u> "Let all the earth *fear* the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him."
- <u>Psalm 34:9</u> "O fear the Lord, you His saints; for to those who fear Him, there is no want."
- Psalm 96:9 "Worship the Lord in holy attire; tremble before Him..."
- <u>Psalm 99:1</u> "The Lord reigns, let the peoples *tremble*; He is enthroned above the cherubim, let the earth shake!"
- Eccl. 3:14 "I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should *fear* Him."
- Eccl. 8:12 "... I know that it will be well for those who *fear* God, who *fear* Him openly."
- Eccl. 12:13 "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: *fear* God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person."
- <u>Isaiah 8:13</u> "It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your *fear*, and He shall be your *dread*."
- <u>Isaiah 66:2</u> "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who *trembles* at My word."
- <u>Jeremiah 5:22</u> "'Do you not *fear* Me?' declares the Lord. 'Do you not *tremble* in My presence? For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, an eternal decree, so it cannot cross over it. Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it."
- <u>Jeremiah 32:40</u> "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that
 I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the *fear* of
 Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me."

The Fear of the Lord in the New Testament

- Matthew 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather *fear* Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." cf. Lk 12:5
- Acts 9:31 "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the *fear* of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase."
- <u>2 Cor. 5:10-11</u> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ ... Therefore knowing the *fear* of the Lord, we persuade men..."
- <u>2 Cor. 7:1</u> "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the *fear* of God."
- Eph. 5:21 "and be subject to one another in the *fear* of Christ."
- Phil. 2:12 "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling"
- <u>Hebrews 4:1</u> " Therefore, let us *fear* lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it."
- Hebrews 12:28-29 "...let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire"
- <u>1 Peter 1:17</u> "And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in *fear* during the time of your stay upon earth"
- <u>1 Peter 2:17</u> "Honor all men; love the brotherhood, *fear* God, honor the king."
- Revelation 14:7 "and he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."
- Revelation 15:4 "Who will not *fear*, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy..."
- Revelation 19:5 "And a voice came from the throne, saying, 'Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who *fear* Him, the small and the great."

D. Worship: The Ultimate Priority

1. The Story of Mary & Martha. (Luke 10:38-42)

- 38 Now as they were traveling along, [Jesus] entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.
- 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet.
- 40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."
- 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;
- 42 but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

"A worshiper can work with eternal quality in his work. But a worker who does not worship is only piling up wood, hay and stubble for that time when God sets the world on fire. I fear that there are many professing Christians who do not want to hear such statements about their "busy schedules," but it is the truth. God is trying to call us back to that for which He created us—to worship Him and to enjoy Him forever! It is then, out of our deep worship, that we do His work." - 21



A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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Additional Notes	

Additional Notes

Selah. Pause & Meditate.



What do Jesus' words in Luke 10:38-42 teach us about the relationship between work and worship?

2 Summarize how the fear of the Lord is related to worship? (Psa. 22:23, Rev. 14:7). How does the fear of anything else affect worship? (Exodus 14:10-14; Prov. 29:24)

Private Devotions

Isa. 40:12-31. God is Transcendent.

	Below, list five ways God is transcendent (i.e. completely different from man).
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Jer. 32:27. Anything too Difficult?

Reflect on the items you listed above with respect to your current trials. Write down some thoughts.

End Notes

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- 2. CAMP, Steve. Worship Wars, "The Worship Driven Life" Part Two (April 13, 1955 Present) Contemporary Christian music artist, popular in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He is well-known for his strong views that Christian musicians are called to make direct, uncompromising music that confronts the world with the message of the Scriptures. Following Martin Luther's 95 theses, on Reformation Day (October 31), 1998 he sent out the 107 theses calling for a reformation in contemporary Christian music.
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Other Bible Study / Devotional

Cross Training, Course 1.

\$10.00

A discipleship course on theology and Scripture knowledge, designed for individual or small group Bible Study. Seven chapters include: 1. The Bible: Five Things You Should Know; 2. Who is God? The A, B, C's of God's Character; 3. Who Are We? Understanding the Nature of Man; 4. The Fall: Understanding the Effects of Sin; 5. Salvation: Defining Our Faith; 6. Christ's Two Natures: Deity & Humanity. 7. The Holy Spirit: His Person & Work. Leader's guide available. © 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005. 133 pages.

Cross Training, Course 2.

\$10.00

A discipleship course on Christian living and application, designed for individual or small group Bible Study. Five chapters include: 1. The Law of God; 2. Living Accountably; 3. Repentance; 4. The Christian Life; 5. Growing in Christ. © Dec. 1999; Jan. 2003; Aug. 2003. 78 pages.

Reformed Bible Notes.

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A quick reference guide containing hundreds of Scripture references and notes on reformed topics, systematic theology, apologetics, the family, character issues, practical Christian living, current moral issues, Christian history, and more. Ninety-five topics arranged alphabetically. © August 2004. 101 pages.

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A data bank of Scripture proving that election, predestination and the sovereignty of God are not isolated topics, but primary themes interwoven throughout the whole Bible. Part I. Bible Survey - A listing of over 700 verses arranged by the books of the Bible. Part II. Topical Survey - A listing of over 500 verses showing God's sovereignty as it relates to 19 different topics. Part III. Historic Confessions of Faith. Part IV Exposition of Apparent Problem Verses. Part V. Reformed Christian Manifesto. © September 2005, 199 pages.

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Advent Devotions.

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Four weeks worth of daily devotional material and songs for individual or family devotions, designed to draw the Christian's attention upon Christ and off of the commercialism surrounding the secular celebration of Christmas. © 1997.70 pages.

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Books, Tapes and Materials.

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Seven lessons: 1. Sacraments: Visible Signs of an Invisible Grace; 2. Circumcision: Sign of the Old Covenant; 3. Christ: The Transition Between the Old and New Covenants; 4. Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant; 5. The Lawful Administration of Baptism; 6. The Scriptural Basis for Infant Baptism; 7. Infant Baptism Supported by the Historical Record. © June 2002. 22 pages.

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Three audio cassette series, plus 47-page study book. Chapter 1. Prayer is the Breath of the Church. An Introduction to Prayer: Prayer is Commanded, Promises Concerning Prayer, What is Prayer? Chapter 2. Approaching the Throne of Grace. Twelve Conditions for Effectual Prayer; 3. The Practice of Prayer. © March 1999.

Revelation. \$50.00

Twelve audio cassette series, plus 142-page notebook. An inductive Bible study through the book of Revelation. Ten Lessons © 2000.



- 19 "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.
- 20 Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.'
- Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father.
- 22 You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews.
- But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
- 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."