

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 4:19-24**.
- B. I have one, two-part question to answer this evening from the Bible Question Box.
- C. Please make use of this resource. The next scheduled Q&A sermon is Sunday, Aug. 29th.
- D. Tonight's questions are:
 - 1. What defines, or describes worship in Christ's church?
 - 2. What must take place for worship to be worship?

I. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- A. Worship is not expressly defined in Scripture. It must be defined from two Greek words.
- B. **PROSKUNEO**.
 - 1. This word used most frequently translated in the NT as worship.
 - 2. This word means "to make obeisance, or do reverence to." It comes from **pros**, towards, and **kuneo** to kiss. It means "to adore." It is used of an act of homage or reverence.
 - 3. The marginal reading of the ASV defines **proskuneo** as "an act of reverence whether paid to a creature or to the Creator."
 - 4. The man born blind was healed by Jesus, and the man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him (Jn. 9:38). Worship then is an act, something that is purposefully done. It is not to be done out of rote or ritual.
- C. **LATREUO**.
 - 1. This word means "to serve, to render religious service or homage."
 - 2. It differs slightly from *proskuneo* in that it suggests not an act or worship but a lifestyle of worship.
 - 3. It is commonly translated "serve" (Ac. 7:42; 24:14).
(Ac 7:42) "But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, 'IT WAS NOT TO ME THAT YOU OFFERED VICTIMS AND SACRIFICES FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS, WAS IT, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?'
(Ac 24:14) "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets;
 - 4. **Latreuo** is the worship of a life of service. It is that continual act of the Xian life (Titus 2:12).
instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
- D. Worship is not confined to praise or a worship service in a church house.

II. EXAMPLES OF PROSKUNEO WORSHIP.

Traditionally there are five acts of *proskuneo* worship.

- A. **Singing**.

Christians show their love and devotion to God by singing hymns of praise (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; 1Cor. 14:15; Heb. 13:15).

(Col 3:16) Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

(Eph 5:19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

(1Cor 14:15) What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.

(Heb 13:15) 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.
- B. **Prayer**.

Christians praise God as they offer up prayers (Col. 4:2; Ac. 2:42; 1Th. 5:17).

(Col 4:2) Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

(Ac 2:42) And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

(1Th 5:17) pray without ceasing;

C. **Communion** (the Lord's Supper).

Christians have the NT example of eating the LS on the first day of the week (Ac. 2:42; 20:7; 1Cor. 11:17-34).

(Ac 2:42) And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

(Ac 20:7) And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

(1Cor 11:17-21) But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you. Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

D. **Bible Study.**

Christians love to study His word (Ac. 2:42; Eph. 4:15; 2Tim. 2:15; 1Pet. 3:15).

(Ac 2:42) And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

(Eph 4:15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,

(2Tim 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

(1Pet 3:15) ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;...

E. **Giving.**

Christians give of their means to carry on the work of the church (Lk. 6:38; Ac. 20:35; 1Cor. 16:1-2; 2Cor. 9:6-7).

(Lk 6:38) "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

(Ac 20:35) ...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

(1Cor 16:1-2) Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

(2Cor 9:6-7) Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

III. **EXAMPLES OF LATREUO WORSHIP.**

A. Worship is a lifestyle as seen in the following verses. Note again Ac. 7:42; 24:14.

B. Paul is not speaking of the act of circumcision, but the lifestyle of those who call themselves of the circumcision (Phil. 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,

C. Jesus uses the words "worship" and "serve" interchangeably here (Mt. 4:10).

Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

D. Eternal worship before God is pictured in Rev. 7:15.

"For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

E. Paul uses the words "worship" and "serve" together to show the ungodly lifestyle of those who practice idolatry (Rom. 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.

IV. WHAT MUST TAKE PLACE FOR WORSHIP TO BE WORSHIP?

- A. First, an assembly for *proskuneo* acts.
 - 1. Taking the LS is that which is to be done in the assembly (Heb. 10:25).
 - 2. Paul laid down rules for those who would lead the assembly in worship:
 - a. Decently and in order (1Cor. 14:40).
 - b. Men would take the lead in preaching and praying (1Cor. 1:2; 1Tim. 2:8-12).
 - c. Giving that which has been set aside for the Lord's work (1Cor. 16:2).
 - 3. The last prayer or song of an assembly simply dismisses the assembly, it does not end one's worship to God.
- B. Second, a willing heart for a *latreuo* lifestyle.
 - 1. Singing, prayer, and Bible study may also be done outside the assembly.
 - 2. When this happens, these "acts" become part of one's *latreuo* worship to God.
 - a. Paul and Silas were singing in prison (Ac. 16:25).
 - b. The brethren were praying for Peter's release (Ac. 12:12).
 - c. Lydia was in a place of prayer by the riverside (Ac. 16:13-14).
 - d. The Bereans studied the Scriptures daily to confirm Paul's words (Ac. 17:11).
 - e. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos more perfectly (Ac. 18:26).
 - f. Women are to teach the younger women (Titus 2:3-5).
- C. Third, a true and sincere heart (see Jn. 4:23-24).

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

 - 1. In spirit. This can mean in emotion and with feeling. It also is to express the character of worship; a sincere and grateful expression of the human heart.
 - 2. In truth. Truth is the standard of worship. Truth is found in the word of God, and sanctification comes to those who are in the truth (Jn. 17:17). To those who reject the word, have rejected true worship (Jn. 12:48).
- D. Worship should NOT be:
 - 1. Vain. That which is void of substance and sincerity (Mt. 15:6-9).
 - 2. Ignorant. Sincere but w/o knowledge of what is right (Ac. 17:23; Rom. 10:2-3).
 - 3. Willful. Doing that which feels right (good) but is unauthorized (Col. 2:18, 23).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. I spent more time of this question because it was the only one I have. Future answers could be shorter if the number of questions increases.
- B. Worship begins with a willing heart. That heart then responds to the truth.
- C. Start your life of worship to God by becoming a Xian.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.