

## O' Worship the King

April 15, 2012

Vol. 2 Num. 15

### SELECTED SCRIPTURES

#### Core Competency:

**Worship-** I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

*Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song. For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His. The sea is His; He made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care. Today, if you hear His voice: (Psalm 95:1-7)*

#### Using This Study

##### ① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

##### ③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

#### Introduction

The word worship comes from the Anglo-Saxon *weorthscipe*, which became *worthship*, and eventually *worship*. The background of these English terms suggests that worship involves “attributing worth” to God. *Šāhâ*, the Hebrew word for worship, literally means “to bow down, to prostrate oneself.” The act of bowing is intended to reflect one’s acknowledgment of God’s worth. *Proskyneō*, the term used most frequently in the New Testament to denote worship, literally means “to kiss toward.” It reflects the ancient custom of kissing the earth as a means of honoring deities.

Ronald Allen and Gordon Borrer offer a concise definition of worship: “Worship is an active response to God whereby we declare His worth.” They add, “Worship is not simply a mood; it is a response. Worship is not just a feeling; it is a declaration.”

Worship is both an event and a process. In the worship event, we gather to honor and revere Christ through certain patterns and traditions. Robert Webber writes, “The focus of worship is not human experience, not a lecture, nor entertainment, but Jesus Christ—his life, death and resurrection.” God’s worth may be declared or acknowledged in many different ways—through song, thanksgiving, praise, prayer, or the reading of Scripture. Because worship is not a matter of mere outward form but of inward attitude, it can take place in a public worship service or in the privacy of one’s home.

Bob Sorge complements that thought, stating, “The goal for our worship should be that we come to the point when we do not see anyone or anything around us, but we become totally taken up with God. This is the supreme goal of worship: to see only the Lord.”

As a process, worship is central to our faith in Christ. The implications for the true disciple are all-encompassing, for worship is more than an event on Sunday morning—it becomes a life-style. True worship will spill over into the week—informing choices, determining perspectives, offering a cup of cold water, loving the unlovely, practicing fidelity, and a cluster of other wholesome actions and attitudes. These attributes may, in fact, run counter to our culture. For the Christian who pursues the worship of a holy God will pursue a holy life-style as a natural by-product.

#### This Week

Notice this week that for the believer, worship is not optional! It is the reason we were created, and the reason we are re-created in Christ Jesus.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

### Read Psalm 95:

1 Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!  
2 Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song.  
3 For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.  
4 The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His.  
5 The sea is His; He made it. His hands formed the dry land.  
6 Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care. Today, if you hear His voice:  
8 Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the wilderness  
9 where your fathers tested Me; they tried Me, though they had seen what I did.  
10 For 40 years I was disgusted with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray; they do not know My ways."  
11 So I swore in My anger, "They will not enter My rest."

## ② DISCOVER His Word

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What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. Read Psalm 95:1–7. What are we told to do? (v. 1)
2. a) Compare this with other commandments to sing found in Psalms 30:4; 33:1–3; 98:1; 147:1, 7 and note distinctive traits of each call "to sing."  
  
b) In the light of these calls, what attitudes should we cultivate as we come before Him in song, and what might we expect as we do?
3. Where might you focus your thanks when you pray? When you attend a worship service? When you face a trial or need? Where you have gained a victory or experienced an answer to prayer?
4. How can we keep a spirit of thanksgiving fresh and relevant?

5. What are we told to do in Psalm 95:6–8?
  
6. Why do you think the physical expression directed is called for? (v. 6)
  
7. Outline the first three phrases in verse 7 and express the thought behind each as a call to worship.
  
8. What can be avoided with this order of worship? (v. 8)

## **③LIVE His Word**

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**How does this truth FIT? God’s word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP**

Worship is central to our faith in Christ. The implications for the true disciple are all-encompassing, for worship is more than an event on Sunday morning—it becomes a life-style. True worship will spill over into the week—informing choices, determining perspectives, offering a cup of cold water, loving the unlovely, practicing fidelity, and a cluster of other wholesome actions and attitudes. These attributes may, in fact, run counter to our culture. For the Christian who pursues the worship of a holy God will pursue a holy life-style as a natural by-product.

### **LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:**

What are examples of potential problems we need vigilantly to monitor, in pursuit of a biblical, worship-based life-style? Consider, for example, unforgiveness, complaining, gossiping, omitting financial , prayerlessness, and unwholesome thought life.

### **OR**

The Bible says, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). How can I assert my seriousness about worshipping our Lord “in truth” by being truthful regarding sin I discover in my heart?

### **Sermon Notes:**

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# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away God's Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.