

WORSHIP: TAKING GOD SERIOUSLY

Acts 16:16-30

Worship

(Heb 12:28-29 ESV) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Having received God's Kingdom

(Heb 12:28-29 ESV) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Acceptable Worship

(Heb 12:28-29 ESV) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

With Reverence and Awe

(Heb 12:28-29 ESV) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Point 1

Worship is serious business.

God's requirements

*(Lev 10:1 ESV) Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.' "*And Aaron held his peace.

What is worship?

What is Worship

Worship' (Old English 'weorthscipe'='worth-ship') originally referred to the action of human beings in expressing homage to God because he is worthy of it.

Worship

*Ex 20:5 (ESV) You shall not **bow down** to them or **serve** them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,*

Worship (Hebrew)

“sha-chah” means “to prostrate ones self”

“a-bad” means “to serve”

Worship (Greek)

latreuo, which means “to serve”

proskuneo, to “prostrate oneself in homage”

Point 2

Worship is not a spectator sport.

Point 3

Worship is not just singing.

How do we worship God?

(John 4:23-24 ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Did Jesus Sing?

(Mat 26:30 ESV) And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Hallel

Hallel — is the name given to the group of Psalms 113–118, which are for the most part psalms of praise. It is believed it was chanted in the temple while the Passover lambs were being slain. It was chanted also on other festival occasions, as at Pentecost, the feast of Tabernacles, and the feast of Dedication.

Hallel

- **Psalm 118:1** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
- **Psalm 118:14** The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.
- **Psalm 118:24** This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **Psalm 118:26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house

Paul Hymned

(Acts 16:25 ESV) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

Psalm 118:5-7 (ESV)

*Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.*

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?

The Lord is on my side as my helper;

I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

Psalm 118:14 (ESV)

*The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.*

God's response

Acts 16:26 (ESV) and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

The Jailer's response

Acts 16:27-30 (ESV) When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Early Christian Songs

*(Eph 5:14b ESV) Therefore it says,
“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

Early Christian Songs

(1 Tim 1:17 ESV)

*To the King of ages,
immortal, invisible,
the only God,
be honor and glory
forever and ever.
Amen.*

Early Christian Songs

(1 Tim 3:16 ESV)

*Great indeed, we confess,
is the mystery of godliness:
He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.*

Early Christian Songs

(1 Tim 6:15b-16 ESV)

*He who is the blessed and only Sovereign,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone possesses immortality
and dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no man has seen or can see.*

To Him be honor and eternal dominion!

Amen

What about music?

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

Singing

Greek: Psallo: literally to pluck on stringed instrument, implying singing while playing on a stringed instrument.

Psalms hymns and Spiritual songs

- Psalms: 150 psalms in the Bible. Plenty of material.
- Hymns: Specifically psalms 113-118, but can include other religious material as the early church did.
- Spiritual Songs: supernaturally generated songs

What about music?

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

Spiritual Songs?

(1 Cor 14:15 ESV) What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

(Psa 40:3 ESV) He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

There is something about Music

(2 Ki 3:15 ESV) But now bring me a musician.” And when the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him.

(1 Chr 25:3 ESV) Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with the lyre in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord.

Point 4

Worship is not just a Sunday activity .

Worship with your lives

(Rom 12:1 ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Conclusion