

# ***WORSHIP: What God forbids; what He desires and why should we worship?***

## ***Introduction***

In the Old Testament, several words are translated from of the word 'worship'; 'to bow down' **Sahah** from Hebrew word; **asab** meaning 'to serve' and also 'showing of respect and reverence' (**Sebomai**) to a deity. The New Testament word **Proskyneo** (Gk) means also 'to bow down'.

Although worship is a matter of the heart and an expression of one's inner relationship with God, it may also be a public expression of a corporate relationship with God (Jn12:20; Ac 8:27; 24:11). In Revelation, worship clearly has the sense of praise and adoration.

Worship referred to the action of human being in expressing homage to God because He is worthy of it. It covers such activities as adoration, thanksgiving, prayer of all kinds, the offering of sacrifices and the making of vows.

It includes not only human approach to God but also the communication of God with His people and the whole communal activity that takes place when the people gather together religiously. Such activity is formal expression of spiritual attitudes that should characterize God's people at all times.

Christianity rest upon a fundamental premise that God's favor is extended only to those who come to him through the person and the work of Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Yet, while many profess faith in Christ, professing Christians differ widely in the manner in which they conduct their worship.

The present ecclesiastical scene illustrates the urgency of seeking a biblical understanding of worship. Some churches introduced contemporary mode of worship: drama, sacred dance and multi-media production. Others advocate free-style services, whereby anyone present may exercise his religious gifts under the unction of the Holy Spirit. There are still others who are

alarmed by growing ecclesiastical anarchy and thinking for a solution to embrace the liturgical forms of Rome, Eastern Orthodoxy, Lutherans, Anglicans, etc.

Many Pentecostal churches hold a different perspective. They maintain that the Bible has general principles that regulate all matters of worship. First, religious worship must be directed to the Lord God alone. Worship must not be given to false deities, humans, or any created thing. Second, the only acceptable means of worship are those established by God.

Many people claim that Christians are free to employ a variety of practices in worship as long as the means employed are not specifically forbidden in the scripture. What we must know is that worship does not consist of moving chairs in a circle, rearranging the order of worship, rituals, or finding a new plan. We believe the heart of worship is the power of the Holy Spirit who enables the congregation to offer praise, thanksgiving, prayer of all kinds and offering of sacrifices

## *Worship that God forbid*

Ex 20:3-4 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Ex 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Dt 12:31-32 Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Isa 29:13 And the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw nigh unto me, and with their mouth and with their lips to honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment of men which hath been taught them;

Jer 12:2 Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root; they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their heart.

Am 5:21-23 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

Lu 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Ro 1:25 For that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature:

Ro 8:7 because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be:

1Co 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have communion with demons.

## *Worship that God desires*

De 6:13-14 Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;

1Ch 29:17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

Ps 24:3-4 who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Mt 4:10 then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Ro 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Php 3:2-3 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

Heb 13:15-16 by him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

## *Why should we Worship God?*

We must know that biblically, our Creator God initiates our worship of Him and that our response in worship is only a reaction to His insertion of Himself into our lives. We worship God for He commands it (Matt 4:9-10; Psalm 99:5). We worship Him because He is our Creator, Deliver, Redeemer and Provider. When we worship God we develop such traits as forgiveness, tenderness, justice, righteousness, purity, kindness, and love. All of this is preparing us for eternal life in heaven with God and Christ. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your mind on things above, and not on things on the earth."

In Genesis 1:26-27, the Bible gives us the divine plan for God creating mankind:

Ge 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Ge 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

- Man was both created and made. The word *created* from Hebrew word ***bara*** meaning *created out of nothing*. This means man did not evolve from apes. The word *make* from Hebrew word ***asa*** meaning to form from *something already existed*. Thus man's spirit is originated from God (Self- Existence) that makes him different from apes.
- Man was made in the image of God. The Hebrew word for image ***tselem*** and ***demut*** meaning, essential nature, copy, characteristics. This does not mean physical likeness but man as a spirit being is an expression of God's moral and spiritual nature.
- Man was created by God. Man in Hebrew word ***adham*** in the generic sense, in two sexes.<sup>1</sup> There is no indication that there is any difference between male and female in Genesis 1:26ff. This passage expresses in what way man and woman are equal. Both man and woman are in the image of God in exactly the same way.
- Man was created to dominion over the earth. Thus God in heaven transferring power and authority to man to rule the physical world.

Knowing who we are; why we are on this earth and His love for making us in His own image, man must realize, acknowledge Him and worship Him; He is our only God who made us. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. He loves us and sent our Lord the Savior to redeem us. Let us worship Him, He deserves!

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<sup>1</sup> Rousas J. Rushdoomy, *The Doctrine of Marriage, Toward Christian Marriage* : a Chalcedon Study, Elizabeth Fellersen, ed. (Nutely, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1972), 14