SCRIPTURAL WORSHIP

John 4:24

Sermon By Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. I believe this lesson is needed because many in the church need to be taught what worship is, and how to worship.

2. Many attend this services of the church for every reason but to worship.
   
   (1) Some examples of why people attend:
   
   1. For social advantages
   2. For political reasons
   3. To be with friends
   4. To please husband or wife

3. It is natural for man to worship
   
   (1) Man does not always worship the true and living God.
   
   (2) Sometimes man worships a god of his own creation.

I. FOUR IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT CONCERN THE HEART IN WORSHIP

1. First, in our worship we must remember WHO GOD IS

   (1) The God whom we approach in worship is infinite -- in greatness, goodness and holiness.
   
      1. God is not like man -- Psa. 50: 21; Isa. 55: 8 - 9
   
      (2) He is our heavenly Father -- Matt. 6:9
   
      1. We are His children -- Rom. 8:16
      
      (3) He is the one in whom we live and move and have our being -- Acts 17: 28
   
      (4) The only proper approach to God by imperfect beings, such as we are, is that of WORSHIP.
   
      (5) All praise, prayer and service to God should be offered with REVERENCE and AWE-- Heb. 12: 28 - 29

2. Secondly, Remember WHO WE ARE.

   (1) Who am I?

      1. I am a creature made in the image of God -- Gen. 1: 26; Heb. 12:9
      
      2. I am a child in His sight -- Rom. 8: 16 - 18; I John 3:10; Psa. 103:13
      
      3. I am a child with no merit of my own; I have been saved by His grace -- Eph. 2: 5, 8 - 9; I Cor. 6: 19 - 20
      
      4. Being a child, I utterly depend upon God -- I am a weak, needy creature at God's hand.
      
      5. Realizing who I am, I must approach God with genuine humility and dependence.

3. Third, we must remember what WORSHIP is.

   (1) The word "worship" comes from an old Anglo-Saxton word meaning "to acknowledge worth".
Worship therefore is the effort of man to "acknowledge the worth" of God.

The Greek word *LATREUO*, found in Phil. 3:3 means: "To serve, to render religious service or homage" *W. E. Vine; THAYER* defines this word "to perform sacred services, to offer gifts, to worship God in the observance of the rites instituted for His worship".

Worship is something that takes place in the heart.

Our knowledge of God, His great mercy, His love, His power, His abundant blessings showered upon us, when properly remembered, thrills the heart and in worship the child of God is attempting to express his gratitude and praise to a great and benevolent God.

Worship is giving ourselves to God.

We go to worship to give something, NOT TO GET; in the giving we get something.

Many go only to get, and come away empty.

4. Fourth, remember to BE THANKFUL -- Phil. 4:6
   (1) No one can truly worship God unless his heart is filled with thankfulness.

II. THERE ARE THREE REQUIREMENTS OF TRUE WORSHIP

1. The right object -- GOD -- Matt. 4:10
   (1) Man must not only worship God, but God only.
   (2) It is wrong to worship any creature (animate or inanimate) -- Rom. 1:23-25; Ex. 20:3-5; Col. 2:18;
      Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 22:8-9

2. The right manner -- IN SPIRIT -- John 4:24
   (1) Our hearts must be wholly behind the service -- Matt. 15:7-9; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; II Cor. 9:7

3. The right way -- IN TRUTH -- John 4:24
   (1) According to His Word -- John 17:17
   (2) To seek to worship God through any act devised by men is vain worship -- Matt. 15:9

III. OTHER DIVINE PRINCIPLES WE MUST OBSERVE IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

1. We must worship God WILLINGLY -- II Cor. 8:12; 9:7
   (1) God wants us to worship Him out of deep gratitude and love.

2. We must worship God REGULARLY
   (1) Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42
   (2) Each Lord's Day we are to eat the Lord's Supper -- Acts 20:7
   (3) Each Lord's Day we are to Give -- I Cor. 16:1-2
   (4) We must worship God at other times -- Acts 2:46; 5:42

3. We must worship God SELF-SEARCHINGLY
   (1) I Cor. 11:28-29; II Cor. 13:5
   (2) When we worship God we must examine self -- not others -- Luke 18:9-14

4. We must worship God HEARTILY
   (1) Col. 3:23; Rom. 12:11
IV. THE LORD’S DAY IS A SPECIAL DAY FOR WORSHIP FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

1. Rev. 1: 10

2. The Sabbath Day was given to the Jews to keep for a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt -- Deut. 5:15
   (1) Paul said the Sabbath ceased at the Cross -- Col. 2: 14 - 17

3. The first day of the week is the Lord’s Day -- Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10
   (1) The first day of the week is the day of Christ’s resurrection -- John 20:1; Luke 24: 1 - 9, 46; Mark 16:9
   (2) The first day of the week is a memorial of the RESURRECTION OF THE LORD FROM THE DEAD.
   (3) The church was established and the Holy Spirit was sent on the first day of the week -- Acts 2: 1 - 4, 47
   (4) The Lord’s Supper is the memorial of Christ’s DEATH -- I Cor. 11:26, and is to be eaten on this day.
   (5) On this day we are to give into the common treasury of the church -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2

4. The Lord’s Day is the only special day of worship in the New Testament.
   (1) NOT Christmas, NOT Easter, NOT Thanksgiving, or Homecoming.

V. ITEMS ESSENTIAL TO SCRIPTURAL WORSHIP

1. The LORD’S SUPPER on the first day of the week -- Acts 20:7
   (1) Instituted by Christ, to be observed in the Kingdom -- Luke 22: 29 - 30
   (2) Paul taught its observance in the church -- I Cor. 11: 20 - 23
      1. The Church and the Kingdom are the same thing.
   (3) Its observance requires an assembly -- I Cor. 11: 20, 33; Acts 20:7
   (4) God joined the first day of the week and the Lord’s Supper together.
      1. The day is not properly observed without the Supper.
      2. The Supper is not properly observed without the day.
   (5) Manner of observance:
      1. Must examine self -- I Cor. 11:28
      2. Must observe in worthy manner -- I Cor. 11: 27 - 29
      3. Communion with Christ -- I Cor. 10: 15 - 17; I Cor. 11: 29

2. SINGING -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Acts 16:25; James 5:13; I Cor. 14:15

3. PREACHING and TEACHING the Word of God -- Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 14:19

4. PRAYING -- Acts 2:42; I Tim. 2: 1 - 8

5. GIVING -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
   (1) According to ability -- II Cor. 8:12; Acts 11:29
   (2) A sacrificial bountiful gift -- II Cor. 9:6
   (3) As you purpose in your heart -- II Cor. 9:7