

1  **UNDERSTANDING WORSHIP**

What is worship???

2  **WHY DO THIS STUDY?**

1. WE ALL NEED TO BE ON THE SAME PAGE (1 Cor 1:10).
2. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WE DO WORSHIP RIGHT (John 4:23,24).
3. WE MUST NOT CONFUSE TRADITION WITH SCRIPTURE (Mk 7:7).
4. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL ASPECTS OF WORSHIP (1 Cor).
- 5.
- 5.
- 5.

3 

- Words and their meanings are very important.
- Sometimes words can have multiple meanings: bad; cool.
- Worship, like love, is one of those words burdened to carry multiple meanings.
- This morning we will look at the three main terms used of worship.

4  **SEBOMAI**

- *"To fall back before"; "to shrink from"*
- Mt 15:9; Mk 7:7 – "But in vain do they *worship* me..." (Isa 29:13)
- A form of this word will be translated as *"God fearers"* in the book of Acts (see 13:43,50; 17:4).
- Used in Acts 19:27 in association with the worship of Artemis.

5 

- Rom. 1:25 – "and they *worshipped* and served the creature rather than the Creator."
- The dread often associated with the worship of false gods seems to underlie the usage of this term in the New Testament.

6  **LATREUO**

- *"To worship; labor for; serve"*
- There seem to be two connotations to this term:  
A way of life (service to God).  
A deliberate act of service (sacrifice) ordered and regulated by God.
- Here are some examples of how the word is used.

7 

- Josh 22:27 – *"...we will (worship) the LORD at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings."*
- Lk 2:37 – *"She never left the temple, but (worshipped) night and day, fasting and praying."*
- Acts 24:14 – *"I (worship) the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way."*

8 

- Rom 9:4 – *"Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple (worship) and the promises."*

- Rom 12:1 – *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of (worship)."*
- Heb 9:6 – *"...the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their (ministry)."*

9 

- It is *very* important to remember how this term is used:  
of a way of life (service to God).  
of a deliberate act of service (sacrifice) ordered and regulated by God.
- As we serve God each day our lives are our *latreia*. As we offer to God *"a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name"* (Heb 13:15) we also *latreuo*.

10  **PROSKUNEIO**

- *"To kiss toward"; often used in the LXX to translate the Hebrew "shachah" – "to bow down."*
- Gen 24:26,27 - *Then the man bowed down and (worshiped) the LORD, {27} saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has*
- 

11 

*led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."*

- (Neh 8:6) *Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and (worshiped) the LORD with their faces to the ground.*
- (Neh 9:3) *They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in (worshiping) the LORD their God.*
- 
- 

12 

- 2 Chron 29:30 – *King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and (worshiped).*
- Mt 2:11 – *On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and (worshiped) him. Then they opened their gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.*

13 

- Mt 14:33 – *Then those who were in the boat (worshiped) him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*
- Acts 8:27 – *This man had gone to Jerusalem to (worship).*
- 1 Cor 14:24,25 - *But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, {25} and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare.*

- 
- 

14 

*So he will fall down and (worship) God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"*

- Proskuneo "describes worship in what we might call its purest sense, the moment when a supplicant throws his heart and soul before God Almighty in an act of honor that is absolute" (Stan Mitchell).

15 

- Some questions we'll consider next:
  1. We are to proskuneo God "in spirit and in truth" (Jno 4:24). How do we do that?
  2. What type of worship occurs when we "come together" (1 Cor 11-14)?
  3. What is the stated purpose of our "coming together"?
  4. Are our acts of worship *latreia* or *proskuneo*?