

Long Branch Baptist Church

September 1, 2021

Wednesday Night Bible Study

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Dial-in (978) 990-5290 – Access Code 4423893#

Rev. Dr. Morris Oliver

Rev. Marilyn Smith

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1Chronicles 16:29

Give to the Lord glory due to His name:

Bring an offering and come before Him.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness

**Introduction**

My LBBC family and friends, can you believe it is a new month? In September, we are going to delve into the meaning of true worship. Collectively, we will examine the different ways in which the people of the Old Testament and the New Testament worshipped.

Jesus stated in Matthew 5:17, “Do not think I came to destroy the Law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

For the following five Wednesdays, prayerfully, we will clear our minds with the world's worry and concentrate on the *distinct*ways in which we can *Live a Life of Continual Worship*.

A group of people raising their hands

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***The Biblical term for worship:***

The meaning of the New Testament Greek word most often translated as "worship" (proskuneo) is "to fall down before" or "bow down before." Worship is a state (an attitude) of spirit. Since it is an internal, individual action, it could/should be done most of the time (or all the time) in our lives, regardless of place or situation). John 4:21-24 Therefore, Christians worship all the time, seven days a week. When Christians formally gather in worship, the emphasis should be on individually worshiping the Lord. Even in a congregation, participants need to be aware that they are worshiping God fully on an individual basis. (Cited: *Got Questions*)

Worship is not just something we do for an hour a week at church or Bible Study. Jesus stated, ​"These people honor me with their lips. /, but their hearts are far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

Jesus was aware that they did not give God their undivided attention. Our minds are fixed on other things. This is not true worship.

Worship is something God invites us to do all day long as we go through our lives at home, alone, or with anyone we encounter. The more aware we are of God, the more worship threads itself through the fabric of our lives. It is a way of living that includes action and thoughts of the heart.

The first mention of worship in the Bible was found in Genesis (22:5) when Abraham took his son Isaac to be sacrificed by the Lord's command.

* What situation did Abraham find himself in? Genesis 22:2-5. What did Hebrew 11:17-22 tell us?

* Moses worshipped God after he received God’s commandments/instructions the second time on Mount Sinai. (Exodus 34:8-9)
* David worshipped God after the death of his child from Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. 2 Samuel 12:20

***Question***:

What does the word “*worship”* mean to you and what are different ways believers worship God? *Discussion”*

Worship means to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Psalm 105:
* Isaiah 43:21.
* Psalm 99:5
* Hebrew 13:15

What did God say about worship? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* John 4:23-24
* Psalm 95:6

Is it possible to live a life of continual worship? Yes – No

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The simple truth is that everybody looks to something or someone to give their lives meaning. Worship reveals the something that we most value. What we love, adore, and focus on, will contribute how our personality is formed. Some of us values our independence.

Others pour their time and energy into totems of power, obtaining or seeking approval, physical exercise, success, and internet communications. We may not consider our obsession with these things acts of worship, but they are.

They are what we look to, to get us up in the morning and keep us going throughout the day. True worship of God happens when we put God first in our lives.

Worship is a word associated with religion. Worship can be found in the lives of people who are:

* Secularists - is a person who rejects religion or the belief that religion should not be part of the affairs of the state or part of public education.

1. Secularism permeates all facets of our society: education, government, the criminal justice system, the news media, the entertainment industry, etc. Secularists believe that man is the measure of all things, that morals are man-centered, not God-centered. Therefore, no one is entitled to determine right from wrong, and morality is best determined by what is good for today’s culture. Secularists do not believe that mankind can have a set of permanent values such as are taught in the Bible. Secularism pays lip service to tolerance and diversity, yet many times secularists are intolerant of those who look to the Bible as God’s standard for morality.
2. Psalm 10:4; 2 Timothy; Revelation 12:9

* Agnostics - (doubting Thomas) – a person who feels or express doubt about something. A skeptic or unbeliever.

1. Agnosticism is the view that the existence of God is impossible to be known or proven. The word “agnostic” essentially means “without knowledge.” Agnosticism is a more intellectually honest form of atheism. Atheism claims that God does not exist—an unprovable position. Agnosticism argues that God’s existence cannot be proven or unproven—that it is impossible to know whether or not God exists. (*Cited: Got Questions*)
2. The Bible tells us that we must accept by faith that God exist. Hebrews 11:6
3. God is spirit (John 4:24) so He cannot be touched. Unless God chooses to reveal himself, he is invisible to our senses. Roman 1:20
4. The Bible declares the existence of God can be clearly seen in the universe. Psalm 19:1-4
5. Sensed in nature. Romans 1:18-22
6. Confirmed in our hearts. Ecclesiastes 3:11

* Atheists - A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.

1. Atheism is not a new development. Psalm 14:1 written by David around 1000 B.C., mentions atheism: “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” Recent statistics show an increasing number of people claiming to be atheists, up to 10 percent of people worldwide. So why are more and more people becoming atheists?
2. The Bible tells us that God’s existence must be accepted by faith. Hebrews 11:6 declares, “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” The Bible reminds us that we are blessed when we believe and trust in God by faith: “Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed John 20:29.
3. 1 Corinthians 14-16; Psalm 14:1; 2 Timothy 4:3; \*Colossians 2:8; Psalm 19:1-4.

***Question:***

Who or what do you give most of your time? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Matthew 22:37- 40 KJV. “**Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”**

***Question*:**

How does this verse speak to your heart? ­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What God says matters more than what others say and when we worship Him, we are showing how much love we have for Him (Agape Love). Discipline, willpower, giftedness, and going to church can be good things. But they do not guarantee transformation. Transformation comes through valuing God above all things.

\**Agape -* is one of several Greek words for love. When the word agape is used in the Bible, it refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another’s highest good.

***Question*:**

Do you believe that transformation comes through valuing or putting God first in your lives? ­­­­

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* \* Colossians 2:8; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Do you believe that it is easy or hard to put God first in every aspect of your life?

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Everyone has priorities. We arrange our schedules, budgets, and relationships according to perceived importance. Putting God first means we give Him top priority over everything else. He is the principal figure in our lives and central to all we do and think. When we choose to put God first, we determine that He is more important than any other person, His Word is more valuable than any other message, and His will is weightier than any other imperative (which means vitally importance).

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~ Old Testament Sacrifices/Worship ~

In the Old Testament period, their main function was to carry out the worship of God through the offering of sacrifices. There were essentially two different kinds of sacrifices: sin offerings, which were offered for moral offenses, and thank offerings, which were offered to express gratitude for God's goodness and blessing. We will explore types of worship. Animal sacrifices,

There were five main types of sacrifices/offerings in the Old Testament.

* The burnt offering: Genesis 8:20; 22:2; Exodus 10:24. God set times for priest to give offering for the benefit for the Israelites, although the animal sacrifice varied (different animals)

1. \*Every morning and evening: (Exodus 29:38-42; Numbers 28:2)  
   \*Each Sabbath (Numbers 28:9-10)  
   \*The beginning of each month (Numbers 28:11)

\*At Passover (Numbers 28:19)  
\*With the new grain/first fruits offering at the Feast of Weeks (Numbers 28:27)  
\*At the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah (Numbers 29:1)

\*At the new moon (Numbers 29:6)

* The grain offering: Leviticus 2:2,4-5,11, 13

1. A grain offering would have most likely been one of wheat or barley, depending on what was available. While other sacrifices had very specific instructions from God as to how they were to be offered, the rules governing grain offerings had some flexibility.

* The peace offering: Leviticus 7:11-21

1. It was a voluntary sacrifice given to God in three specific instances. First, a peace offering could be given as a freewill offering, meaning that the worshiper was giving the peace offering to say thank you for God’s unsought generosity. It was basically just a way to praise God for His goodness. The second way a peace offering could be given was alongside a fulfilled vow. A good example of this was when Hannah fulfilled her vow to God by bringing Samuel to the temple; on that occasion she also brought a peace offering to express the peace in her heart toward God concerning her sacrifice—it was a way to say, “I have no resentment; I am holding nothing back in the payment of my vow.” The third purpose of a peace offering was to give thanksgiving for God’s deliverance in an hour of dire need. None of these three reasons to sacrifice had anything to do with propitiation, with appeasing God, or with pacifying Him.

* The sin offering:

1. A sin offering was a sacrifice, made according to the Mosaic Law, which provided atonement for sin. The Hebrew phrase for “sin offering” literally means “fault offering.” The sin offering was made for sins committed in ignorance, or unintentional sins. The ritualistic method of the sin offering and the animal to be offered varied depending on the status of the sinner. For example, a high priest who sinned unintentionally would offer a young bull. A king or a prince would offer a young male goat. People in the private sector would sacrifice a young female goat or lamb, unless they were too poor, in which case they were only required to offer two turtledoves or pigeons. Full details of the sin offering, and the requirements associated with it are enumerated in Leviticus 4 and Numbers 15.

* Trespass/Guilt Offering: Leviticus 5:14-19; 7:1-7; 14:12-18.

1. The trespass/guilt offering was required when a person unintentionally violated some of the Lord’s holy things. “Holy things” would normally refer to things that had been dedicated to the Lord—anything from the sanctuary itself to the portion of the offerings that were normally reserved for the priests. How this could happen *inadvertently* is not spelled out, but perhaps a person forgot to fulfill a vow, made some mistake in the fulfilling of it, accidently ate food that was reserved for the priests, or mistakenly ate a firstborn animal from his own flock. In these cases, the offender had to bring a sacrificial animal (an unblemished ram or male lamb) to offer and compensate the priests an extra 20 percent for what they had been deprived.

**Old Testament worshipers worshiped through Animal sacrifice.**

* Animal sacrifice:

God required animal sacrifices to provide a temporary covering of sins and to foreshadow the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ in (Leviticus 4:35, 5:10). Animal sacrifices is an important theme found throughout Scripture because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrew 9:22). When Adam and Eve sinned, animals were killed by God to provide clothing for them (Genesis 3:21).

Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord. Cains was unacceptable because he brought fruit, while Abel’s was acceptable because he was the “firstborn of his flock” (Genesis 4:4-5). After the flood receded, Noah sacrificed animals to God (Genesis 8:20-21). God is pleased with a sacrifice that comes from true love and obedience.

**Old Testament worshipers sacrificed on.**

* Altars:

The word *altar* is first used in Genesis 8:20 when Noah built an altar to the Lord after leaving the ark.

Throughout the book of Exodus, God ordained altars for the purpose of sacrifice, adoration, and worship.

An altar always represented a place of consecration. Before God gave His Law to Moses, men made altars wherever they were out of whatever material was available.

An altar is any structure upon which offerings such as sacrifices are made for religious purposes. It was usually a raised platform with a flat surface. There are over four hundred references to altars in the Bible. However, the idea was present as early as Genesis 4:3-4 when Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices to the Lord. They most likely presented their offerings on some type of altar, even though the word *altar* is not used in that passage.

Sometimes God Himself commanded that an altar be built after He had delivered someone in a miraculous way (Deuteronomy 27:4-7; Exodus 30:1). Such an altar would be a memorial to help future generations remember the mighty works of the Lord. Because atonement is God’s work, the Law specified that an altar made of stones must be made with natural, uncut stones, “for you will defile it if you use a tool on it” (Exodus 20:25).

People who built an alter to the Lord

* Abram - (Genesis 12:7)
* Isaac - (Genesis 26:24-25)
* Jacob - (Genesis 35:3)
* David - (1 Chronicles 21:18; 26)
* Gideon - (Judges 6:24)

***Research*:**

Find instances of others and Old Testament that built an altar unto the Lord.

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**Old Testament Worshippers worshipped in *specific places*:**

**Pillars, Trees, and Mountains (High Places)**

* 1 King 3:2 says, “meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord until those days.” High place or High places in a Biblical context means place(s) of worship. High places were places of worship on an elevated piece of ground. When the Israelites first entered the promised land, they were told to destroy the high places, idols, and molten images of the Canaanite inhabitants (Numbers 33:52). They were also instructed not to worship at high places that were Canaanite sites (Deuteronomy 12:2-3). They were told Yahweh/God wanted to be worshiped in another way: “You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way. But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there” (Deuteronomy 12:4-5).

1. The high places were intended to serve Israel’s worshipping needs for only a season. Until a temple to Yahweh/God was built, the Israelites worshiped God at a local center of worship (primarily High Places).
2. Solomon built the first Temple for God. It stood next to the King’s palace.
3. The prophet Samuel blessed sacrifices that were offered at high places, and Solomon sacrificed 1000 burnt offerings on the altar in Gibeon.
4. The temple brought the 12 tribes together as one people to worship God in one place.
5. God took up residency and his temple and the need for other centers of worship became obsolete (1 King 9:3).
6. Not only did Solomon build a temple, but he also on a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.
7. There were High Places on *hills.* 2 Kings 16:4; 2 Kings 17:29; and 1 Kings 11:7
8. There were High places in *towns.* 1 Kings 13:32 and 2 Kings 17:29
9. To learn more about the High Places, go to this link: Good information. Copy and paste this link.
10. https://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/high-place.html

References:

Sarah Young – Jesus Calling

Hooker, Ashley Living a Worship Life

Got Questions