

Worship Study Notes

Q 1. What springs to mind when you think of worship? Bible scholar David G Peterson writes: “The most common word for ‘worship literally means ‘bend over’ or ‘bow down’.” Do you ever bow down before God? How would it change our worship on our own, with friends and family, and in church if we did?

Q 2. Selwyn Hughes sees a difference between worship and praise, writing:

“Praise is appreciating God for what He does; worship is adoring him for who He is.”

How can we shape our personal prayer times and corporate worship in church so we glorify God for “who He is”?

Q 3. Selwyn says that “God meant that every convert should learn first how to worship Him and only after that become a worker”.

How do we teach one another to worship? How can we ensure that we keep worship at the heart of our activities – both at home, the workplace and in church?

Q 4. Selwyn writes:

“It is tragic when we become more interested in the work of God than God Himself; more taken up with the cause of Christ than with the Christ whose cause we represent... How true it is that unless we are involved with Jesus Christ in a loving and adoring relationship we have nothing of eternal value to offer a dying world... Before we can reach the world we must be committed to reaching God.”

Amid the busyness of lives in church, work and the home, how can we focus on deepening our relationship with Jesus?

Q 5. Selwyn is deeply concerned that a false idea of God can make it difficult to trust Him. He writes:

“I urge you, before you go any further, to think through this issue of how you see God, for if you do not see him as he really is - trustworthy reliable and good - then those doubts and misgivings will sabotage true worship.”

On a similar theme, David Gooding urges us to focus on Jesus:

“The preparation for worshipping God is to look at the Lord Jesus; to fill your heart and mind and soul with the Lord Jesus. When we see the wonder of the Lord Jesus in the way

he behaved; in what he said, in what he showed us about God; we feel our hearts and spirits move in response to the fact that, in Christ, we are looking upon God.”

What images of God do we receive from our culture? How does that change when we focus on Jesus as revealed in the Bible?

Read these words of Jesus from John 4:23-24

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers 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.”

Q 6. What does it mean to worship in “spirit and truth”? Is it exciting to think that God is “seeking such people to worship him?”

Read Romans 11:36-12:2

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen. 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. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Q 7. What does it mean to offer our whole bodies to God? How do we hold back elements of our lives? How are our minds transformed?

Read Psalm 22:27-28:

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

Q 8. How does it feel to think that one day nations that are divided by religion and politics and history will one day join together in worshipping God? How should this encourage us in evangelism?

Read Revelation 22:1-5 one verse at a time. After each verse pause and pray a prayer of praise God. If you feel inspired, you could try kneeling!

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.