

SAINT PHILIP AME CHURCH  
TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY  
OCTOBER 29, 2013  
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**“WORSHIP”**

*What is Worship?*

- A. To worship is to assemble ourselves as a community of believers to express our appreciation, love and devotion to God.
- B. Worship is an Anglo-Saxon word (weorrshipe), which is, translated “worth-ship”. Christian worship is to declare the absolute worthiness of God .
- C. Worship is a personal meeting with God where our ultimate desire is to magnify and glorify him.
- D. Worship is...
  - a. To quicken the conscience by the holiness of God.
  - b. To feed the mind with the truth of God.
  - c. To purge the imagination by the beauty of God.
  - d. To open the heart to the love of God.
  - e. To devote the will to the purpose of God.

*Our Worship is Required*

True worship of God is not an option for those of us who have been washed in the blood of Jesus. Our worship is a divine command/demand from God. The bible is replete with scriptures, which direct us to being a worshipper of this mighty God we serve.

Psalm 95:6

1 Chronicles 16:29

Psalm 99:9

Exodus 34:14

2 Chronicles 29:29-30

Hebrews 12:28

John 4:23

God has created a space, a place called the church where we are to come and worship Him. The question for us becomes: “When gathering on Sunday morning (or any other designated time) is God being manifested in our worship?

In other words is God:

- Readily perceived
- Evident
- Obvious

- Revealed
- Shown
- Noticeable
- Disclosed
- Prominent
- Exposed
- Proclaimed

We must also ask is God being glorified and edified?

Are lives being saved and transformed?

Is there healing and deliverance?

Is there a sense of spiritual community?

Do people leave with a desire to go and live a life which honors God?

Do people leave with a desire to go and tell others about Jesus Christ?

Do people leave ready to go and touch the lives of the least and the lost?

### **WORSHIP BLOCKERS**

- Lack of spiritual preparation prior to coming to worship
- More caught up in focusing on our needs rather than focusing on God
- Come to church to do more socializing than worshipping
- Too many distractions during the worship experience
- Too much flesh-ego, power struggles, selfish demands
- No preparation of the sanctuary
- Lack of respect for the sanctuary
- Cafeteria mentality picking and choosing what you will listen to
- People who will not tithe interfere with the church receiving their storehouse of blessings
- Members who just want to get in and out as quickly as possible

### **MOVING INTO THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR WORSHIP**

Requires an understanding of true worship

“Authentic worship always produces the EXPERIENCED PRESENCE of God. People’s lives are changed in His presence”

Worship anticipates not only an encounter with God but also a CLEAR NEXT-WORD from God.

Worship must be totally God-centered. It should be THEO-CENTRIC instead of “ME-CENTRIC” or “U-CENTRIC.”

Out of worship should come a clear and more FOCUSED RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE WITH GOD.

## **WORSHIP IS AN EXPERIENCE OF BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PREPARATION**

Worship is not a casual unplanned experience. It requires preparation. In the Old Testament the true worshipper came with external expressions.

### *Old Testament External Preparation*

Cereal offerings-Lev. 2:1

Animal sacrifices-had to follow certain rituals. Only cattle, sheep, goats, doves and pigeons could be offered. Animals had to be unblemished (Lev. 22:17-25)

Vegetable offerings-were only wheat, barley. Olive oil and frankincense. Offerings were salted.

Burnt offerings-the purpose basically was to win God's favor. Animal offered had to be a male and as entirely burned on the altar, except the hide, which went to the priest.

There were other offerings as well.

Ordination offering, Sin offering and donations

### *Temple Rituals*

The daily rituals were every morning the ashes on the sacrificial altar were cleared off and the fire was stoked. (Lev 6:10-13). The daily burnt offering, a yearling males plus it's accompany cereal and drinking offering was offered. The high priest, dressed in his priestly garments entered the sanctuary, trimmed the oil lamps and offered a specially formulated incense on the incense side of the altar. Outside he would offer a special cereal offering. In the evening a second lamb was offered like the morning one and the high priest again entered the sanctuary to trim the oil lamps and burn incense. He would also offer the second half of the high-priestly offering.

Although we are not required to bring the kinds of sacrifices previously mentioned, the questions for us becomes 1) What sacrifices are we bringing to God when we enter the sanctuary to worship Him? 2) How are we preparing the sanctuary for worship? 3) What financial sacrifices are we bring?

Worship is a sacrifice. (1 Chronicles 21:1-27)

### *Internal Preparation*

The Old Testament has a focus on the external preparation for worship and the New Testament focuses on the internal preparation. We see only three rituals: baptism, communion and the laying on of hands.

The first of the week the church gathered with teaching, exhortation, singing, praying and prophesying, reading letters and the breaking of bread. Worship was characterized by joy and thanksgiving. Those in attendance were encouraged to engage in personal, internal examination and to become true worshippers.

**GOD LOVES SEEING YOU IN BIBLE CLASSES!!!**

