

Spotting A Counterfeit

Understanding True Worship

" 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'"

Matt 15:8-9 NASB95

What Is Worship?

- **Notes: (1) The worship of God is nowhere defined in Scripture. A consideration of the above verbs shows that it is not confined to praise; broadly it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgment. (Vines)**
- **Since there is no one passage to define true worship we must look at the totality of passages that speak of proper worship.**

Different Words Used

- **proskuneo** ~ to express in attitude or gesture one's complete dependence on or submission to a high authority figure, *(fall down and) worship, do obeisance to, prostrate oneself before, do reverence to, welcome respectfully* (BDAG) – This is the most frequent Greek word translated worship.
- **sebomai** ~ worship, be devout, be God-fearing. (DBL Greek) – This is the word used in Matt15:9.
- **sebazomai** ~ to show reverence to, *worship* (BDAG)
- **latreuo** ~ *serve*, in our literature only of the carrying out of religious duties, especially of a cultic nature, by human beings: (BDAG)
- **eusebeo** ~to show uncommon reverence or respect, *show profound respect for someone, refers to a sense of awesome obligation arising within a system of reciprocity in which special respect is showed to those who have the greatest investment in one's well-being, such as deities and parental figures.* (BDAG)

Worship (prostrate) God

- **Matt 4:9-10** *"and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship (prokuneo) the Lord your God, and serve (latreuo) Him only.' "*
- **Rev 22:8-9** *"I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."*
- **Acts 10:25-26** *"When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man."*
- **Matt 14:33** *"And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!" "*

Where Should We Worship?

- ***John 4:20-24 In Spirit & Truth***

- ***“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”***

21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

22 “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Serve (latreuo) Him Only

- **Matt 4:9-10** " *and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."* Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship (prokuneo) the Lord your God, and serve (latreuo) Him only.' " "
- **Acts 24:14** " *"But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; "*
- **Acts 27:23** " *"For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, "*

Gifts & Sacrifices Offered

- **Heb 9:9** " *which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,* "
- **Heb 9:14** " *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* "
- **Rom 12:1** " *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.* "
- **Heb 12:28** " *Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;* "

What Gifts & Sacrifices Do We Offer

- Rom 1:9 " *For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, "*
- Heb 13:15 " *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. "*
- Heb 13:16 " *And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. "*
- Phil 4:14, 18 " *Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. ... I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. "*

God-Fearing (sebomai)

- Acts 13:43 *"Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God."*
- Acts 16:14 *"A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. "*
- Acts 17:4 *"And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. "*
- Acts 18:7 *"Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. "*
- Acts 19:27 *" "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence." "*