

What is worship?

We have left Christmas behind but let's be realistic, we need to take some Christmas into our year.

–

Matthew chapter 2, verse 2,

PP1 when the wise men came before King Herod, and Scripture says this. They asked,

“Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him.”

Hang on hang on Let's all say this together,–

“we have come to worship Him.”

Why are we here? Say it again. We have come to worship Him.

What I love about this is that the wise men didn't come to get something from God, but they came to offer worship to Him.

Tragically, in the part of the world where most of us live, Christianity really has been reduced to some kind of a formula, so often, where people actually believe that

God exists for us, that if we just do the right thing

–

if we pray the right prayer, if we act the right way

–

then God's got to do whatever we want Him to do.

It's kind of like He's a genie. We rub on Him just right

–

Zammo –

He's going to pop out and say, “You get three wishes for today, and I'm here to serve you. What is your wish? Your wish is My command.”

And, literally, we reduce God to somewhat of a cosmic Coke machine. If you put your coin in, push the button, say the prayer, do your devotion, make sure you post an Instagram or facebook picture of your devotion by a cup of coffee so everybody will know just how spiritual you are, do something nice for

someone, don't flip anybody off while you're driving, then God is going to answer your prayers, because He exists to make your life better.

The reality is, that is not why God exists. He does not exist for us, but **we exist for Him.**

Let me put it this way:

We are created to glorify Him, to worship Him, to make Him known, and to bring Him honor.

And I'll be real honest with you. As a church, I believe that God wants more of us from our hearts toward Him in worship.

In fact, just as your pastor, I would say there are a lot of things that we're doing really well, as the body of Christ. But quite honestly, I believe one of the greatest areas that we can improve is learning not just on the weekends, but seven days a week, to be worshipers.

**Worship is a verb.
A worshiper is a lifestyle .**

We're created to worship God from the depths of our hearts. And so, for the next few weeks, what I want to do is really ask that God would build within us a desire to know Him intimately, and worship Him passionately

The Bible doesn't give a formal definition of worship. But perhaps we can start by seeing what various words for worship mean. The English word "worship" comes from two Old English words:

***weorth*, which means "worth,"**
and

***scipe* or *ship*, which means something like shape or "quality."**

We can see the Old English *weorth* *-ship* in modern words like *friendship* and *sportsmanship* – that's the quality of being a friend, or the quality of being a good sport.

So *worth-ship* is the quality of having worth or of being worthy. When we worship, we are saying that God has worth, that he is worthy. Worship means to declare worth, to attribute worth. Or to put it in biblical terms, we praise God.

We speak, or sing, about how good and powerful God is.

This is a purpose for which we are called:

1 Peter 2:9

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, *that you may declare the praises of him* who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light".

Hey as a pastor this is a primary role for me also.
NOT LEADING WORSHIP - DOING WORSHIP!!

We were called for the purpose of praising God, worshiping God. That is one of the job descriptions of a Christian. We should declare that God is worthy, worth more than everything else put together.

Now let's look at the biblical words. In both Hebrew and Greek, there are two major kinds of words for worship. The first one **Shahah (Heb)** means to bow down, to kneel, to put one's face down as an act of respect and submission.

The closest in Greek is **proskuneo** which means to kiss the hand of or to bow down or lay prostrate basically to do homage.

The idea is that the body language is saying, I will do whatever you want me to, I totally respect you and totally am in your awe. I am ready to listen to your instructions and I am willing to obey.

The other kind of biblical word **asab (Heb)** means to serve or to carve (meaning to labour) for the object of worship.

IN Greek the word is **latreuo** which means basically to serve.

Roughly half of the time these words are translated as worship, and the other half as serve. (I am not sure how translators make the distinction!)

These words carry the idea of doing something for God — making a sacrifice or carrying out his instructions or even living for God

Of course, word meanings don't prove what worship is, but they do illustrate three kinds of worship. There is

1. worship that involves speaking, and
2. worship that involves listening, and
3. a worship that involves doing.

There is a worship that expresses the heart, and worship that involves the mind, and a worship that involves the body. There is a worship that is giving praise upward, a worship that is receiving instructions from above, and a worship that carries out instruction in the world around us.

We need all three types of worship

1. Worship involves speaking

Psalm 40:5 (NIV2011)

⁵ Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Worship is confessional, we confess our inferiority and confess God superiority.

2. Worship involves hearing

Psalm 81:8 (NIV2011)

⁸ Hear me, my people, and I will warn you— if you would only listen to me, Israel!

3. Worship involves doing

Romans 12:1 (NCV)

So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship.

SO how does it pan out for us? How do we do this worship thing?

What we do here on Sundays is a corporate worship, a way to achieve the worship thing but as a group. And there are a bucket load of formats and ways to do that.

But we are called to worship. Not worship on Sunday. By that I mean we are called to live a life of worship. Again, we go back to that Romans 12 passage.

Romans 12:1 (NCV)

1
So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, **I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him.** Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship.

Note what is highlighted. Offer your lives.

In other words worship is giving God credit for who He is in our whole existence.

This series is going to investigate how that works for us, each day, in every way.