

Church and Worship: What Does True Worship Accomplish? (Psalm 116:12-19; Romans 12:1-2)

Introduction

What does true worship accomplish in us?

- Firstly, it is relational: it provides an intensified inner, Godward, experience of the heart—it is a heaven came down experience.
- Secondly, it is transformational: it revives every true worshipper. For a true believer, the revival can be seen in his allegiance to God – in his handling of financial matters, relationship with others, dedication to God, etc.

Our Religious Devotion to God (Psalm 116:12-19)

Worship is God centric!

In worship, we reciprocate (give in return) our hearts' devotion to God (Psalm 116:12-19).

- This means worship is thanksgiving to God.
- Worship is orienting our service or our facility or even our life toward God. In other words, worship brings us closer to God!
- For example, Noah (Gen 8:20-22), Abraham (Gen 12:6-8), Jacob (Gen 28:22), the other Patriarchs in the OT. Altar of God for offering and thanksgiving was very much part of their lives!

>>As God's people, we should express our religious devotion to God privately (through personal prayers and worship) and publically (through corporate worship).

Our Hearts' Adoration to Christ (Romans 1:1-5; 11:34-36; Ephesians 1:5-12)

Worship is Christ centric or gospel centric!

- It is meditating in our hearts the Cross of Christ and giving God all glory!
- It is being gripped by the love of God exhibited in His incarnation and consummated in Calvary.

Our Spirit being United with the Spirit of God (John 4:23-24; Romans 8:15-27)

Worship is Spirit centric!

True worship occurs only when that part of man, his spirit, which is similar to the divine nature (for God is spirit), actually meets with God and finds itself praising God for His love, wisdom, beauty, truth, holiness, compassion, mercy, grace, power, and all His other attributes.

- William Barclay, a Scottish Bible commentator who lived early part of 20th century, wrote well on this point: "The true, the genuine, worship is when man, through his spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible."
- In worship our spirit must be united with the Spirit of God, which helps us in sanctification, spiritual strength, and revival (Romans 8:15-27; Isaiah 6:1-8).

This way, true worship also has bearing on the worshiper (Romans 12:1-2). It changes the person. No one ever truly comes to know, honor, or worship God without being changed in the process.

- The great former Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple said, “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.”

Conclusion

We worship the Triune God—Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. He alone is worthy to receive our worship!

- Our responsibility is to worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness.
- Psalms 29:1-2, “Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” (Psalm 96:7-9).