

This we believe about

21. Worship

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

What is worship?

- To **worship** means to 'subscribe worth'
- In the Bible, *worshipping* God is the same as *servicing* God, as countless verses show (e.g. Matthew 4:10; Exodus 3:12; Deuteronomy 11:16; 2 Timothy 1:3; etc.)
 - Because I *ascribe worth* to God in my heart, I *do* His will
- Worship and activism are not opposed – they go hand-in-hand

WHO is to be worshipped?

- God alone! (Matthew 4:10; John 5:23)
- NOT anything else (Deuteronomy 11:16; Romans 1:25)
 - Images (Exodus 20:3-5)
 - Angels (Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10, 22:8-9)
 - Saints (Acts 14:14-15, 10:25-26)

WHY is God to be worshipped?

- Look at:
 - Deuteronomy 10:12-22
 - Psalm 95:1-7a
 - Psalm 100
 - Daniel 6:25-27
 - Revelation 4:8-11, 5:9-14
- We see that God is to be worshipped because of...
 - who He is
 - what He has done: creation, providence, redemption, judgement, etc.

HOW is God to be worshipped?

In the way He has said

- We may not worship Him as we please
- He Himself has instituted the way in which He is to be worshipped
- We may introduce nothing into the worship of God without the clear warrant of His Word: the **Regulative Principle**
- See: Deuteronomy 12:32; Matthew 15:9
- Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 4:15-20; Colossians 2:18-23
- Not forgetting John 4:24!!

...and this is the way He has said:

- He is to be approached only through the Mediator that He has appointed (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:13-18; hence Colossians 3:17)
- The ONLY Biblically permitted ingredients are:
 - Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, etc.)
 - The ministry of the Word (Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 4:12-16; 2 Timothy 2:2, 4:1-2)
 - Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-42, 20:1; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)
 - Congregational singing (1 Corinthians 14:26; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19; James 5:13)
- ANYTHING ELSE is an addition to what God has revealed, and is therefore illegitimate

What else is to be said?

- As long as worship is in the Spirit and in truth, it does not matter *where* it takes place (John 4:21)
- Both private and family worship are commanded in the Word of God, but the emphasis is on the communal worship in the fellowship of *the church* (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25; etc.)
- It may be daily (Acts 2:46) or on other occasions (4:23; 12:12), but it is always to be on the **Lord's Day** (Acts 20:4, Revelation 1:10) – as we shall see more clearly in our next message.

Today's Lesson:

Worship is the heart of Christian faith and life:

"Question 1: What is the chief end of man?"

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever"

Westminster Shorter Catechism

- Next Message: The Sabbath -