

CrossRoads Baptist Church
May 3, 2006 6:30
Romans 12:1-2
Worship: Passion of God for God #3

“Worship 24/7/365/Eternity”

Let’s look at the foundation of the principles involved in true worship. The foundation is in the Old Testament and the fruit is in the New Testament.

Look in Exodus 40 and II Chronicles 5-6-7 and we’ll be introduced to the principles.

I. Priority of Worship – Exodus 40: 1-2

The priority is seen that “on the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.” The first thing they were to do.

Worship is not an interruption in our schedule of the week nor on Sunday, instead worship is who we are and what the priority of our life is.

II. Place of Worship – Exodus 40:2

The Tabernacle was the place where worship took place. Due to the Israelites being a nomad people during Moses’ life, they had a mobile unit called a Tent for their worship center. Verses 3-11 tell us about that Tabernacle. Note, verse 9 – the whole place was anointed because “it shall be holy.” To be holy means it is set apart for the work of God.

III. Priest of Worship – Exodus 40: 12-15

The priests were set forth as Aaron and his sons as they were to minister to Me as priest (vs. 13). They were set up to be an everlasting priesthood.

IV. Presentation of Worship – Exodus 40: 26-29

They offered a sweet incense up and a burnt offering and grain offering. You always came to the Tent with a presentation of worship.

V. Prize of Worship – Exodus 40: 34-35

The prize of their worship was that God came among them. His glory filled the place. It was the fulfillment of the promise of Exodus 29:42 –43 when God told Moses “where I will meet you to speak to you and there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.”

We see this again when Solomon built the Temple, the more permanent dwelling of God. II Chronicles 5:1 indicates they have finished the Temple. Then verse 2 they bring the Ark into the Temple with the priests and Levites bringing it up (vs. 5) and the priests went into the sacred place of the Holy of Holies (vs. 7). Then they “sacrificed sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.” (vs. 6) When all of this happened, the Levites begin to praise God (verses 12-14) and the prize was “the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud (vs. 13) so heavily that the priest could not continue to minister. Solomon said in 6:1 that this was a “place for You to dwell in forever.” Chapter 7: 1-4 indicates that the fire fell, the glory of God fell and the people worshipped.

That is the Old Testament format, but in the New Testament worship is not centered on a building. In fact, they met in homes in the early church. The emphasis of the New Testament is I Peter 2: 4-6. Using the principles of the Old Testament, let’s see worship for us.

I. Priority of Worship

Colossians 3: 17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,..” That is the theme of NT worship. Everything you do is to be an act of worship.

II. Place of Worship

The place of worship is your body.

Romans 12: 1 “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies”

I Corinthians 6: 19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

I Peter 1: 15-16 “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

God requires the place of His worship to be Holy – set apart for Him and Him alone.

III. Priest of Worship

Worship requires priests. Someone set aside to offer worship to God. Who are the priests in the New Testament? First of all, we have a High Priest who is Jesus Christ. But then He has made us all priests.

Revelation 1: 6 “He has made us kings and priests to His God”

I Peter 2: 5, 9 “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Verse 9 – “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

We are priest and we can offer acceptable worship to God.

IV. Presentation of Worship

So, what does God want? What worship does he require? In the Old Testament he liked burnt offerings. He still does. Let me explain.

In the NT, our bodies are the sacrifice.

What sacrifice did Jesus give to God as the High Priest? Bulls, oxen – no. He gave Himself.

Hebrews 7:27 “who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”

We are to do likewise.

Romans 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.”

Then the sign of true worship is fire. The fire fell for Solomon on the new Temple and it fell for Elijah at Mt. Carmel.

When we offer our bodies on the altar of our spirit, then He will answer with the fire burning our flesh. God loves the smell of burning flesh.

V. Prize of Worship

The prize of worship is the very presence of God every day, all the time.

I Corinthians 3: 16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

I Corinthians 6: 19 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you,”

II Corinthians 6: 16 “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

God does not come into our lives for us to have someone to go on Sunday morning. He comes in our lives to be all in all.

Brother Lawrence lived over three hundred years ago. His life still touches our today through the little book *Practicing the Presence of God*. As he was lying on his deathbed, those who were attending him were surprised to hear him say, “I am not dying.” One of them asked, “Then, Brother Lawrence, what are you doing?” His reply was, “I am doing what I have been doing all my life; I am worshiping the God I love.”

Worship is a lifestyle. It is in fact “practicing the presence of God all day long.” You are a worshiper, not just when you go to church, but every moment you live. Worship is 24/7/365/Eternity