

## GOD'S PATTERN OF WORSHIP

### Int.

1. Aim: To show what we are to do in worship.
2. "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God." Psalms 42:1
  - a. Human beings are naturally worshipping creatures.
  - b. The Psalmist perhaps expressed a need that is basic to the human soul.
  - c. "As far back as the time of Cicero in the first century B.C., or even earlier, pagan thinkers had observed that religion in some form or other is a universal trait in human nature."
3. Men are going to worship something or someone. Man has a basic religious inclination.
  - a. It may be the sun, a cow, a golden idol, the true God, or oneself! Humans worship.
    - i. Theo-Centric - worship of God
    - ii. Auto-Theist - worship self - a self god - if we reject the idea that there is a God then you hold the view that man is the supreme being of biological life and therefore he is his own god. An auto-theist.
    - iii. "I am religious, but my religion is the religion of atheism." Statement by Madelyn Murray O'hair. Religion is an inborn quality but sometimes it is perverted.
    - iv. Idolatry
  - b. The issue is then, what/whom, and how, will people worship? Will they be "true worshipers" (Jn. 4:23), or false worshipers?

c. "The Bible nowhere commands man to merely worship - but it gives instructions as to whom, the disposition of the worshiper and the form or method by which worship is to be regulated." [N.B. Hardeman - Tabernacle sermons]

4. Jn. 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

## Discussion

### I. THOUGHTS AND IDEAS REGARDING WORSHIP

#### A. No relationship between God and the need to Worship

1. Woman said God must have a supreme Ego problem if he expects everybody in the whole world to fall down and worship him.
2. She did not believe that there is any relationship between the idea that there is a God and the need to worship Him!
3. God is not worthy to be worshiped according to this woman

#### B. The Need to Worship God. = God is worthy to be worshiped because of who He is:

1. Ps. 18:3 "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."
  - a. God is a Spirit being - Jn. 4:24
  - b. Luke 24:38-39 ...a spirit hath not flesh and bones...
2. God is not a man as Mormons teach - we should be careful when we speak about God as the man upstairs.
  - a. Christ is the God-man, but the Father is not man and never has been. He is the eternal spirit of the universe.
  - b. Where did God come from? He didn't come from anywhere. He always has been.

3. Psalms 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."
  - a. He is the existing one - He is the Great I Am
  - b. He is all powerful - Gen. 17:1 God almighty
  - c. I John 3:20 - He knows all things
  - d. I sa. 6:1-5 - he is the Holy One - a seraphim - I saiah 6:3. "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."
  - e. Rev. 4:8 "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**"
  - f. 1 John 4:8 "God is Love"
  - g. Eph. 4:2 - He is rich in Mercy
4. **God is worthy of our worship simply because of Who He is!**

C. The major thrust of the book of Job is that God is worthy to be served.

1. Some say the book is about patience, that is true, but it is a demonstration of the fact that God is a worthy being for human adoration.
2. God & Satan:
  - a. Have you considered my servant Job - perfect, upright man.
  - b. Devil said yes, but you have bribed him. You gave him all these things and he served you. But Job does not serve you because you are worthy but because of all the goodies you have given him.

c. The Devil said: But I challenge you to take these things from him and he will curse you to your face. He will be a demonstration of the fact that you are not worthy to be served apart from the blessings which you bestow.

3. Job's problems

a. Lost all 10 children in one day

b. Lost his wealth

c. Lost the admiration

d. Lost his health

e. Even his wife said: Why don't you curse God and die - why don't you bid him farewell - dismiss him from your life. But Job said the Lord gives and the Lord takes away - blessed be the name of the Lord. Thou he slay me, yet will I trust Him.

4. He never forfeited his faith. His faith was weak at times. He always said God is still there.

5. He demonstrates that God is worthy to be served because of who He is!!

D. Some maintain that Human worship to God is useless:

1. Argument

a. If God is completely self sufficient He doesn't need human worship.

b. God is completely self sufficient.

c. Therefore he does not need human worship - and human worship is useless.

2. What is Wrong with this argument?

a. **God has commanded men to worship him:**

- (1) "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God" Matt. 4:10
- (2) "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" Ex. 20:3
- (3) Whether we see the importance of it or not makes no difference.

b. **God has not commanded human worship because He needs it.**

- (1) God is absolutely self-sufficient
- (2) God is infinite in all his characteristics and attributes.

c. **Questions:**

- (1) Can God be any more powerful than He is? No because He is All Powerful.
- (2) Can God be any better than he is? No because he is already perfect and you can't get any better than that!
- (3) Can God Learn anything? No he is omniscient - He knows all things
- (4) Can God be any more glorious than He is? No.

d. **God is not enhanced by human worship**

- (1) Acts 17:25 Concerning God - "Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as thou he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."
- (2) Does he need our worship? Is his glory enlarged or enhanced by human reverence or service? No!!
- (3) Prayer - Jn. 17:4-5 "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

- (a) Jesus petitions God in anticipation of his death, resurrection
  - (b) Glorify me with the glory that we shared before the world was created
  - (c) Had his glory been increased across the centuries as the people served Him? No!! Did his glory increase no!!
  - (d) The Glory of God is steadfast
- (4) God doesn't need our worship - our service to bolster his Ego
3. Why then has he commanded us to worship Him? Not for what he gains from it, but rather what it does unto us.
- a. No human being on this earth can find true happiness and contentment, understanding and the meaning of life apart from serving God.
  - b. Ecl.12:13-14 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: **for this is the whole duty of man.** 14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." ""
- (1) Whole Duty - Duty is italicized - added by translators
  - (2) But maybe this does not need to be there
  - (3) NKJV "Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all."
  - (4) Fear God and keep his commands for this is the Whole of man - this is what makes man whole, gives richness to human nature, fulfills human destiny. Man was designed in the image of God - Gen.1:26 We cannot find fulfillment apart from serving God.

## **II. CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMAN CONDUCT AND WORSHIP OF GOD**

- A. No human morality apart from the idea that there is a God and we have a responsibility to serve Him.
1. Atheist - Jeane Paul Satre "If there is no God everything is permitted." -- that is a true Statement
    - a. If there is no God then you are God, and if you are God then have the right to write the moral dictionary - you make the rules.
    - b. What I Believe - Betrand Russell "Apart from Human desire there is no moral standard." Adolph Hitler desired to exterminate several million Jews. If a man desires to murder, rob, whatever; it is right."
  2. Humanist Manifesto declares "Ethics is autonomous and situational."
    - a. Autonomous = self, law -- your are yourself law
    - b. If situational - There is no situation in which you could do wrong.
  3. The Bible teaches there is a connection between human conduct and believe and reverence for almighty God.
    - a. Psalms 14:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."
      - (1) The fool hath said in his heart - No God!!
      - (2) They are corrupt - consequences of not believing in God.
      - (3) Connection between belief in God and the conduct of humans.

## b. Rom. 1:20-32

- (1) Last part of the chapter describes the moral bankruptcy of the people in the 1st century.
- (2) Lays groundwork for declaring the way people act in their lives. - did not believe in God
- (3) Consequences - when we reject the true God then we look for other places to invest our allegiance or reverence. Turned away from the true God to idolatry.
- (4) V. 24 - Uncleaness

B. Morality and human happiness is connected with worship to God.

C. God demands worship from humanity, not because he needs it but we do !

### **III. IS WORSHIP SOMETHING WE DO ALL THE TIME ?**

- A. Basis for this argument is the desire for people to do what they desire in worship.
  1. Worship is something we do every moment. The whole of life is worship.
  2. When we brush our teeth, eat a hamburger, everything is worship.
  3. If that is true then what we do in worship is determined by us.
- B. The Answer
  1. A faithful Christian is always in a worshipful disposition - think of God - adore Him - He is the one in whom we live and move and have our being.
  2. The Idea of All we do is worship is WRONG !
    - a. God has set aside certain times and certain things we do as we worship.
    - b. Study the concept of Worship in O.T.

- C. Not something done constantly - but times of worship in distinction to times when they were not worshipping
1. Gen. 22:5 "And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." -- they were going to go do something they were not doing at that specific time
  2. 1 Sam.1:3 "And this man went up out of his city **yearly to worship** and to sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there." - Elkanah went up each year to worship at Shiloh
  3. Jer. 26:2 "Thus saith the Lord; Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:" -- specific acts under consideration - more than a devotional disposition
  4. Matt.2:2 "Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."
  5. Acts 8:27 Had been to Jerusalem to worship - if worship is something we do around the clock then he might well have saved himself a long trip.
- D. The idea that everything we do is worship and therefore we are not regulated is false.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Worship To God is regulated by God's Word.
2. Jn. 4:24 - This is God's Pattern
  - (1) Worship God
  - (2) Worship in Spirit
  - (3) Worship in Truth
3. Worship indicates our belief in God and His Word.
4. In heaven we will be worshipping God!!!

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