

Session: Introduction – Why Study Worship?

1. Introduction
 - Matthew 22:37-40: Jesus quotes Deut. 6
 - John 4:23-24 - “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
2. Class Information
 - a. Focus: the Bible’s account of worship as revealed in the Old and New Testaments (OT/NT)
 - b. Based on key texts:
 - i. David Peterson, *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship* (IVP Academic, 1992)
 - ii. Block, Daniel I., *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship* (Baker Academic, 2014)
 - iii. MacArthur, John, *Worship: The Ultimate Priority* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2012)
 - c. Discussion points
 - i. As you listen and study, ask yourself questions – who, when, where, what, why
 - ii. Bring your questions here to help us all learn together
 - d. Timeliness / thoughtfulness: class time = 45 minutes – 35 min. lecture, 10 min. questions
3. Learning Objectives for these classes:
 - a. To see worship in the OT as foundational for our worship today
 - b. Be able to define and explain worship and worship-related words biblically
 - c. Apply biblical texts to your life to strengthen your personal worship practice & understanding
 - d. Find greater joy and hope in your relationship with the Lord through His revelation

First, what is our goal in studying worship?

1. We are not just saved _____ something; we are saved _____ something!
 2. The ultimate point of _____ is _____.
- Philippians 3:8 - “I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...”
 - “Engaging with (or knowing) God” is the very reason for which we were created.

What is **Biblical Theology** and why is it valuable to our study of worship?

1. Theology – “ology” = study of; “Theos” = God; theology = the study of God and His divine revelation in the Bible
2. Biblical Theology studies & presents theology in the same historical & literary context & same order as the Bible
3. Strength: shows God using historical events and people to teach about worship in different contexts

“Studying worship using Biblical Theology will help us develop a deeper understanding of God’s intention for worship as revealed through the unfolding drama of real historical events and the people to whom He spoke and commanded. It helps us understand how worship applies to our own lives as redeemed believers”

Why study worship?

1. Worship is a subject and practice that should _____ our lives seven days a week.
2. Life and significance are found in God's revelation of His _____, _____ and _____.
3. We must capture a _____ perspective of worship in our _____ and in our _____ lives.

But what's wrong with our understanding of worship?

1. We tend to see worship as a form of _____ or _____ in church services.
2. Is worship an _____ or a _____? Should we be seeking a special sense of the presence of God, or religious ecstasy or deep humility?
3. Is it right to call a worship service successful because it met our _____?
4. We should be cautious whenever we think that our _____ is the measure of what is acceptable to God.
5. These questions and observations _____ us to study to know what is pleasing worship to the Lord!

Romans 12:1–2: *"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. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

What should we expect to learn from our study of worship?

1. Worship is intimately linked with all the major emphases of biblical theology such as _____, sin, _____, redemption, the _____ of God and the future _____.
2. All of scripture is concerned with how "we can be in right relationship with God and _____ Him in all that we do.
3. Worship has been initiated by _____, consummated in _____ as the perfect and eternal redemptive sacrifice, and mediated to us in and through the _____.

Next week's lesson will be: Genesis – Divine Revelation & Worship: Creation, Covenant, and Israel