

Worship (Summary Lectures)

Speaker: Dr. Gary Parrett (Professor at GCTS)

Preliminary concerns (lecture 1)

Worship is controversial ("Worship Wars")

(Two types of church splits)

"So, we have this wonder of worship, which I think in many respects is God's gift to us, to focus our attention on Him and also bind us together as the Body of Christ. Yet, ironically, and in many senses, I believe, tragically, worship actually, as it is worked out in our life as a church, has sometimes served to divide us."

Misconceptions about Worship

"One of the reasons that worship has proven to be so controversial, difficult and even divisive in some of our experience, I think, is that there are many misconceptions about what worship really is and these misconceptions are troubling us deeply in the church today."

1. Worship is singing

"Worship songs" "Worship leaders"....

"To my mind there are very few words that we have watered down that have hurt us more than the way we have watered down worship after such a manner."

2. Worship is something we do on occasion

"If we picked up that misconception and tried to correct it by saying "No, worship is far more than singing. When we gather together in worship, for example, preaching is also worship and the offerings are also worship." Well, we would help by doing that, but we would not go far enough, because a second misconception about worship that is equally troubling is the idea that worship is something we do on occasion."

"Worship, indeed, is much bigger than that, as we shall see. So, these are some of the fundamental misconceptions about worship and we will address those as we try to consider some biblical principles about worship in the next little bit here."

Key Biblical Terms

"There are many Bible terms used in the Old and New Testaments for worship, many Hebrew terms in the Old Testament and Greek terms in the New. Often, the Greek terms are the equivalent terms of the Hebrew words. From the many, I would like to choose two sets of these most basic terms for worship in the Old and New Testaments."

1. *shachah, proskuneo* – "bowing down"

"both basically have the sense of bowing down. To worship is to bow down, to literally to prostrate oneself and to be on one's face before another, before royalty, or before a deity."

John 4:23-24

²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true **worshippers** will **worship** the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to **worship** him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who **worship** him must **worship** in spirit and truth."

2. *'avad, latreuo* – "to serve"

Acts 24:14

But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I **worship** the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,

Definition – "Bowing all that we are before all that God is."

Meaning of English term "Worship" = Worth ship - attributing worth

"One additional word for worship that we might consider is our English word "*worship*" which comes from *worth ship* and has the idea of assigning worth to or attributing worth to someone or something. In the etymology of our English term, what we are doing in our worship is assigning worth to God and describing His worthiness as we come before Him."