

Why is Worship Important?

Psalm 99, John 4:19-26, Hebrews 9:1-15

- I. Introduction
- II. What Exactly is Worship?
 - A. Worship is an expression of reverence and adoration directed to Deity. (Ps. 96:8-9, Ex. 20:3-5, 1 Cor. 14:26)
 - B. All men owe their Creator worship. (Ps. 95:6-7, Rom. 1:20-23, Matt. 4:8-10)
- III. Where Is Worship to be Performed?
 - A. We are no longer to worship in a particular temple or mountain. (John 4:1-26, Zech. 14:8, Is. 12:3, Jer. 2:13, Acts 17:22-28)
 - B. God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (Jn. 2:19-22, 11:25, Rom. 8:26, Jn. 14:26)
- IV. Who Regulates Our Worship?
 - A. God takes His worship seriously and has prescribed how He is to be worshipped. (Lev. 10:1-2, 2 Sam. 6:6, 1 Cor. 11:29-30, Is. 42:8, Heb. 9:1-15, Rev. 1:13, 1 Pet. 2:5)
 - B. What are the elements of New Covenant worship? (Acts 2:42, 1 Tim. 2:1-2, 4:13, 2 Tim. 4:2, Eph. 5:18-19, 1 Cor. 16:2, 1 Cor. 11:24)
 - C. The day of God's public worship is to be on the Lord's Day. (Gen. 2:2, Ex. 20:11, Deut. 5, Mk. 2:27, Rev. 1:10, Acts 20:7)
- V. How Should You Worship God?
 - A. Give God wholehearted devotion. (Ps. 103:1, 1 Pet. 1:8, 1 Tim. 2:8, Ps. 33:8, Jn. 4:23, Ps. 47:6, Col. 3:16, Ps. 95:6, Ps. 134:2, 1 Tim. 2:8, Ps. 95:6, Ps. 47:1, Ps. 33:1, Ps. 150:3-5, Ps. 33:8)
 - B. Since worship is so important, you must prepare your heart. (1 Pet. 1:13, Ps. 33:8)
- VI. Why Should You Worship?
 - A. You owe your Creator and Redeemer worship. (Rev. 4:11, 5:12, 21:22f)
 - B. For the benefit of your own soul. (1 Peter 2:2, 2 Pet. 3:18)
- VII. Conclusion / Application

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Adapted from *20 Helps to Sermon Listening* by David Murray

Before the Sermon

1. Read and meditate on God's Word every day.
2. Limit media consumption.
3. Use Saturday evening well.
4. Pray for yourself and the pastor.
5. Train yourself to listen.

The Sermon

1. Come to church in good time to get calm, settled, and focused.
2. Respect the silence of the sanctuary: This includes training your children not to distract others.
3. Engage your body and soul in worship and prayer.
4. Tell yourself that God is about to speak.
5. Recognize that this is a team effort and take personal responsibility.
6. Take brief notes.
7. Check that the preacher is preaching God's Word: Not a critical Pharisaical spirit (Luke 11:54), but with a discerning Berean spirit (Acts 17:11).
8. Accept there will be times when the Word hurts you.
9. Build up good-will towards the preacher. Ill-will blocks the Word.
10. Try to find one thing to benefit from.

After the Sermon

1. Talk about it with others: Share what helped you with friends and family.
2. Put it into practice: Obey and do the Word.
3. Be patient in looking for results.
4. Work on your soil: Soil can change from bad to good to very good. We are responsible for preparing the soil of our hearts (Mark 4:1-20).
5. Give feedback.

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