

WEDNESDAY SERMON

Willow, Alaska

Date: May 15, 2019

Scripture Reading: John 4:23-24

Text: Multiple

**Subject: CONFESSION OF FAITH SERIES – Christ:
Acceptable Worship, Article 17**

In our last message from our Confession of Faith, we considered article 15 concerning **Jesus Christ; The Wisdom of God**. Now we come to the article 17 in which we study Christ: Acceptable Worship.

17. Christ: Acceptable Worship

Concerning His priesthood, Christ having sanctified Himself, appeared once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. By that one offering He has fully finished and allowed all things God required for the salvation of His elect, and fulfilled all rites and shadows, etc. and is now entered into the holy of holies, which is the presence of God, ever making intercession for us. Also, He makes His people a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Him. The Father does not accept, nor does Christ offer to the Father, any other worship or worshippers.

*Jn.17:19; He.5:7-10; 6:19, 20; 10:12; Ro.5:19, Eph.5:2; Col.1:20;
Eph.2:14-16; Ro.8:34; He.9:24; 8:1; 1Pe.2:5; Jn.4:23, 24.*

In order to get a biblical perspective on this topic, we need to define the word "worship." Definitions: Worship. What does it mean? First mention of the word worship is found in Genesis 22:5. This verse is in the context of God commanding Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering. Here is the verse:

Ge 22:5 (KJV) *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.*

Abraham's offering of Isaac involved his submission to the will of God and faith toward God. He obeyed the LORD and took Isaac to the place which God chose – and there, Abraham offered his son. We know God provided a substitute – a ram which was offered instead of Isaac, but Abraham offered his son in obedience and in faith. How do we know that? We have the testimony of scripture:

Heb 11:17-19 (KJV) *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, **18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: **19** Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

In this instance, worship was submitting oneself to the commandment of God. We worship when we do that – keep his commandments.

Job was passive when all his troubles came on him. He had been actively offering burnt offerings every morning for every one of his children – in case they had sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. He did this continually. On a single day when his oxen and asses were taken away and his servants slain; his sheep burnt up with fire from heaven with their servants; his camels carried away and his servants slain with the sword; his sons and daughters, being together in one house, were killed when a great wind from the wilderness smote the house.

Job 1:20-22 (KJV) *Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and*

worshipped, **21** And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. **22** In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

In this case, Job acknowledged that God have given him all things then took them away. He bowed to God's sovereignty over his life – in worshipping. We **worship** when we gratefully acknowledge that God gives us all – children, wealth, houses, land, health - and, if he chooses to remove some of it or all of it – we humbly say it is his right as God to do so.

The word **worship** in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word "שָׁחָה shachah". This word is found 172 times in the Old Testament. It is translated as: worship 99, bow, bow down, obeisance, reverence, fall down, themselves, stoop, crouch, & misc. These words show worship to be when one bows and submits himself to the will of God and carries out his commandments.

Worship in the New Testament comes from the Greek word "προσκυνεω proskuneo". This word is found 60 times in the New Testament. It is translated as worship every time. So, this takes us to a good dictionary to see what the meaning of worship is. According to Webster's 1828, the verb worship means: "1. To adore; to pay divine honors to; to reverence with supreme respect and veneration. 2. To respect; to honor; to treat with civil reverence. 3. To honor with extravagant love and extreme submission; as a lover." The OED gives us much the same meaning.

Let us now consider the scriptures listed under this article in our confession of faith:

Joh 17:19 (KJV) *And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.*

The saints must worship God in Spirit and in truth. We can thank God that he has left for us the complete volume of truth in Scripture – and, as his people, are sanctified (set apart) through the truth.

Heb 5:6-10 (KJV) *As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **7** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; **8** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; **9** And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; **10** Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

We worship in truth about our savior. He, in his giving himself, became the author of eternal salvation to us who obey him. We worship when we gratefully acknowledge that.

Heb 6:19-20 (KJV) *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; **20** Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

We have a hope that is an anchor for the soul – both sure and stedfast. Our Lord, as the forerunner, has entered within the veil at the very right hand of God and is making intercession for us. Worship is acknowledging this blessed truth.

Heb 10:19-20 (KJV) *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20** By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

We have boldness to enter into the holiest (the holy of holies) in the heavens by the blood of Jesus – by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, his flesh. By faith we can enter this very place to bow before God and the Lamb.

Ro 5:19 (KJV) *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

O, beloved, we are disobedient and are sinners; but he who was obedient, even unto death, the death of the cross, has made us righteous. Not that we are righteous, but we have been made the righteousness of God in him. Worship sees this blessed truth.

Eph 5:1-2 (KJV) *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; **2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.*

Christ has bidden us to follow his steps – and to so walk, even as he walked. We are to walk in love – love for our dear brothers and sisters and for our neighbors – and we are to provide the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ by laying down our lives for them. Not so much in physical dying, but in putting aside our self in order to serve them. In this way, we perceive the love of God. (1Jo. 3:16).

Col 1:19-20 (KJV) *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; **20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross,*

by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

God is a spirit – and no man hath seen God at any time, but the Only Begotten Son hath declared him – for in him all fulness dwelt. He is the fulness of the godhead bodily who made peace through the blood of his cross. In that offering of himself, he reconciled all things unto himself whether things in earth or things in heaven. He is our all in all. We worship in acknowledging this wonderful truth.

Eph 2:14-16 (KJV) *For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; **15** Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; **16** And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*

Jesus Christ is our peace. He has abolished, in his flesh, the enmity between Jew and Gentile. He has made one new man – where there is neither Jew nor Gentile, Greek or Barbarian, Male or Female, bond nor free. We are all brothers and sisters in Him.

Ro 8:34 (KJV) *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Heb 9:24 (KJV) *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

Heb 8:1 (KJV) *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;*

All three of these verses teach us that Jesus Christ is entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us – he is interceding for us. Having been reconciled by his death, we are now being saved by his life. We acknowledge this and know it is true – and this truth becomes a part of our worship.

1Pe 2:4-5 (KJV) *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

Beloved, we are a spiritual house, an holy priesthood. Jesus Christ is the great high priest, but every single one of us, as saints, are made kings and priests. The LORD has designed that, as priests, we offer up – not carnal sacrifices and physical oblations – but spiritual sacrifices. We worship when we obey and perform our priestly functions. What are those things?

Heb 13:15-16 (KJV) *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

Consider this when we sing – let us be truly the fruit of our lips praise God and giving thanks to his name. Let now our song simply be that which pleases our flesh and instincts – but truly spiritual. Let us do good continually – unto all men,

as we have opportunity, especially unto those who are of the household of faith. Let us communicate – distribute our wealth for the preaching of the gospel, for the building up of the church, for those in need.

Joh 4:23-24 (KJV) *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Php 3:3 (KJV) *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

As we learn from Acts 17 which records Paul’s preaching on Mars Hill, that the Greeks worshipped gods made in their own image – statues and such like which represented their gods who could not hear, speak, nor move – and which are no gods. But we worship God who created the heaven and earth and all that in them is. In Him we live, and move, and have our being, even as some poets of the Greek culture acknowledged. He is our life. Our worship, fear, and adoration is due him continually. We use not physical likenesses, carnal things, heavenly bodies or man-made things in worship – no we worship God in spirit and in truth. As the last line of this article says: “The Father does not accept, nor does Christ offer to the Father, any other worship or worshippers.”