

**What Is Worship?**  
**John 4:20-26; Rom. 12:1-2**  
**July 1, 2007**

- I. The Central Importance of Worship
  - A. All things created for God's glory  
*Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*
  - B. Men and women to glorify God in all things (I Cor. 10:31)
  - C. Priority of worship during the Reformation  
According to John Calvin, the two main issues that necessitated the Reformation: "a knowledge, *first*, of the mode in which God is duly worshipped; and, *secondly* of the source from which salvation is to be obtained. When these are kept out of view, though we may glory in the name of Christians, our profession is empty and vain."<sup>1</sup>
  - D. Priority of worship for the Church  
"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not mission, because God is ultimate, not man."<sup>2</sup>
  
- II. God's Purpose: His Glory
  - A. The Centrality of God  
*Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen*
  - B. God as jealous for His glory (Ex. 20:1-11)
  - C. Central to the Covenant  
"Worship has everything to do with the covenant between the Lord and his bride. That's why it's so important and central to the faith and life of God's people. It's at the heart of who we are as individuals made and being remade in God's image. It's at the heart of who we are as the church. It's at the heart of our relationship with the living God."<sup>3</sup>
  - D. Man's chief end: to glorify God and enjoy Him  
*1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*

III. What Is Worship? (John 4:20-26)

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<sup>1</sup> John Calvin, *The Necessity of Reforming the Church* (Audubon: Old Paths Publications, 1994), 4.

<sup>2</sup> John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003), 11.

<sup>3</sup> Larry Wilson, "The Real Point of Worship," *New Horizons* 28, no. 5 (May 2007), 7.

- A. The Samaritan woman's assumption: worship about externals (v. 20)
- B. Jesus Christ's teaching
  - 1. Who we worship (vv. 22, 24)
  - 2. How we worship (vv. 23-24)
- C. What kind of worshippers?
 

"Worship is not first an outward act; it is an inner spiritual treasuring of the character and ways of God in Christ."<sup>4</sup>
- D. Warnings against false worship
 

*Amos 5:22-24 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

*Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

#### IV. Is All of Life Worship? (Rom. 12:1-2)

- A. Present your bodies → living, holy, acceptable sacrifices
- B. Spiritual (or rational) service
 

"When a person seeks to glorify God, he seeks at all times and in all activities alike to do that which is well-pleasing in God's sight. Faithful work, and wholesome recreation, are just as much a part of glorifying God as is the worship of God on the Sabbath, or witnessing to an unbeliever."<sup>5</sup>
- C. Obedience **better** than sacrifice (I Sam. 15:22)
- D. Obedience **is** sacrifice
- E. Again, what kind of worshippers?
 

*Luke 10:27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*

#### V. Conclusion

- A. The God-centered life → all for His glory
- B. The radical nature of a God-centered life
 

"The true view of Christian discipleship is that which sees the whole of life as that which is to be consciously lived unto the honor of God, and in the service of his name!"<sup>6</sup>
- C. What about corporate worship?

<sup>4</sup> Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad!* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003),

<sup>5</sup> G. I. Williamson, *The Shorter Catechism*, Vol. 1 (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1970), 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid* 4.