

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Theology of Worship

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Introduction to Worship

“Worship is the supreme and only indispensable activity of the Christian Church. It alone will endure, like the love for God which it expresses, into heaven, when all other activities of the Church will have passed away.”

W. Nicols

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Introduction to Worship

“For worship to be as glorious as it should be, for it to lift people out of their mundane cares and fill them with adoration and praise, for it to be the life-changing and life-defining experience it was designed to be, it must be inspired by a vision so great and so glorious that what we call worship will be transformed from a routine gathering into a transcendent meeting with the living God.”

Allen P. Ross

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Introduction to Worship

Definitions

- ✓ Worship is all that we are reacting rightly to all that God is (John MacArthur)
- ✓ Worship is a response to the revelation of the Holy LORD God of glory (Allen Ross)

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Introduction to Worship

A Response to Revelation

- ✓ Revealed Holiness of God (Isa 6:1–4; Rev 4:8)
- ✓ Revealed Glory of God (Isa 6:3; Ps 19:1; Ex 33:18)

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Worship *Before* Mount Sinai

- ✓ Adam and Eve
 - ❖ Immediate access to God
 - ❖ Would become **mediated** access
 - ❖ Sacrifice—cover bodies and substitute for immediate death
- ✓ Abel
 - ❖ Sacrifice accompanied by faith (Heb 11:4)
 - ❖ Went out of his way to please God, as opposed to Cain's perfunctory duty
- ✓ Noah
 - ❖ Offered sacrifice after Flood as expression of gratitude and submission

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Worship *Before* Mount Sinai

- ✓ Abraham
 - ❖ Abram's altar (Gen 12:7)—response to revelation and expression of gratitude
 - ❖ Almost-sacrifice of Isaac (Gen 22)—demonstration of complete submission and faith
- ✓ Moses
 - ❖ Revelation of God caused worship (Ex 3:5)
 - ❖ Israel responded to God's power (Ex 4:31)
- ✓ Passover
 - ❖ Rejoicing at deliverance from bondage
 - ❖ Central feature was the Passover lamb
 - ❖ Pre-figured Christ (1 Cor 5:7)

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Worship *After* Mount Sinai

- ✓ Tabernacle/Temple
 - ❖ **Purpose**—clear reality of the presence of God (Ex 25:8)
 - ❖ Accessed governed by outer court, Holy Place and Most Holy Place
 - ❖ Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of the tabernacle and temple (John 1:14; 2:19)

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Worship Requires Sacrifice

- ✓ "Sacrifice is at the center of worship as the basis and expression of it" (Ross, 505)
- ❖ Worship is halted by sin
- ❖ For people to commune with God, atonement for sin must be achieved
- ❖ OT Sacrificial system
 - Purity was the concern of God
 - Worshipper needed acceptance by God
 - God grants the effectiveness of the sacrifice
 - Offering is costly
 - Covenant Fellowship

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Worship Requires Sacrifice

- ✓ OT Sacrifices and NT Fulfillment
- ❖ Purification offering (Lev 4:1ff, 6:24–30)
2 Cor 5:21
- ❖ Reparation Offering (Lev 5:15 – 6:7; 7:1–6)
Matt 5:23–24
- ❖ Burnt offering
The enjoyment of continued fellowship with God through Christ
- ❖ Dedication offering
Heb 10:5–7
- ❖ Peace offering
The Lord's Table

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Worship Requires Sacrifice

- ✓ Giving of Physical Possessions as Worship
- ❖ OT (Levi 27:30–31; Num 18:8–13; 19–32; Deut 14:22–23; 26:12–15; Neh 10:35–39)
 - Tithe #1 = 10%
 - Tithe #2 = 10%
 - 3rd and 6th year Tithe for the poor
 - Animal sacrifices three times per year
 - Vows and freewill offerings

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Worship Requires Sacrifice

- ✓ Giving of Physical Possessions as Worship
 - ❖ NT
 - Principle of giving as worship is the same
 - We have been purchased therefore all we have belongs to God
 - Giving is an acknowledgment of our debt to Christ

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Worship Requires Sacrifice

- ✓ Christ is the ultimate sacrifice—the culmination of OT worship and is the basis for NT worship
 - ❖ Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36)
 - ❖ Ransom for many (Mark 10:45)
 - ❖ The Last Supper, giving us the Lord's Supper
 - ❖ Book of Hebrews makes the clear connection to Christ
 - ❖ Christ is the One Mediator—none other

True Worship COSTS

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Function of Worship

- ✓ Worship Involves:
 - ❖ Fear and adoration
 - ❖ Confession and commitment
 - ❖ Sacrificial Acts of devotion and service
 - ❖ Proclamation—reading, singing, preaching God's Word—the gospel
 - ❖ Praise—exaltation and adoration of God
 - ❖ Prayer—communication with God, thanksgiving, supplication
 - ❖ Covenant affirmation—responding to God's Word with obedience

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Function of Worship

- ✓ Corporate Worship
 - ❖ The proclaimed Word of God (Col 3:16; 2 Tim 4:2)
 - ❖ Thanksgiving (Eph 1:3; 1 Thess 5:18)
 - ❖ Prayer (1 Tim 2:1)
 - ❖ Praise (Ps 150)
 - ❖ Edification (Heb 10:24–25)
 - ❖ The Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:23–26)
