TITLE: “Worship”

TEXT: Ps. 96:9 & 29:2; 1 Tim. 2:8; Ex. 23:25; Ro. 12:1-2; Jn. 4:23-24; Gal. 2:20; 2 Co. 5:17; Heb. 12:28

INTRODUCTION: Last week we talked about the Holiness of God. This morning I want to talk about, what seems to me, to be the logical follow-up message… And that is worship! Once we get a grasp, get a glimpse of the Holiness of God our response should be one of worship.

 The entirety of Scripture, Old and New Testament, is full of admonitions for us, as believers, to worship God.

 Do you realize that as a Christian, to worship God, is our highest calling! It is the single most important thing that we can do with our lives.

 This morning I want to talk about two specific aspects of Worshipping God.

 In Scripture there are two very different words in both Hebrew and Greek that we translate Worship..

 In the language of the Old Testament, Hebrew, two separate words for worship are….{shaw-khaw'} and {aw-bad'}.

 David, in the Psalms often uses the first word, ….{shaw-khaw'}

 **Psal 96:9 (NIV) Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.**

**Psal 29:2 (NIV) Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness**.

 The word that David uses here is:

**07812 shachah {shaw-khaw'}**

**1) to bow down, to depress, prostrate oneself**

**before God in worship**

 It is a word that speaks of posture or position!

Psal 29:2 (NIV) Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship (shaw-khaw, bow , bend down before) the LORD in the splendor of his holiness!

 This is speaking of the position that we take before the Lord as an act of worship! To bow, to bend the knee before the Lord!

 What the position signifies is our act of submission or surrender to Him.

 Conquered kings would **shaw-khaw,** come and bow down before the one who conquered them as an act of total submission and surrender… It was a position that they would take, an outward sign, to bear witness to something that had happened inwardly…

 In this particular case, their being conquered and surrendering to someone greater and mightier then themselves.

David cries out…

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship (shaw-khaw, bow , bend down before) the LORD in the splendor of his holiness!

Example: Raise your right hand if you love Jesus this morning..(Keep it up). Raise your left hand if your glad to be in the House of the Lord today..(Keep It up)… You have just taken up a position, a posture of worship! A posture of submission and surrender to the Lord.

1Tim 2:8 (NIV) I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer….

 Why does Paul desire that men everywhere lift up holy hands to the Lord? It is a position of surrender and submission!

 Why is it in the movies that the police always ask someone caught in a crime to lift up their hands---or the bank robber robbing a bank will have the people they are robbing lift up their hands?

 It is a position, a posture of surrender!

 Our first act of worship to God is a surrendered Heart!

A heart that has said: Lord God, I give up! I have failed so miserably on my own! I surrender all to You! Take me! I’m all yours! All that I have, All that I am, I give, I submit to you!

 Do we have to bend our knees or lift our hands to worship God? No!

 But we do need to have surrendered our heart to Him if our worship is truly an act of worship.

 When we bend our knees’s or lift our hands before the Lord it is a way for us to testify to the surrender that has already transpired in our heart!

 But it is a surrendered heart that is essential for true worship!

 Which leads us the other Hebrew word for worship…

 And that is Aw-bad!

 **Exod 23:25 (NIV) Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water….**

 The word used for worship here is Aw-bad and it does not denote position but it denotes action!

**{aw-bad'}**

1. **to work, to serve, to labour,**
2. **to work for another, serve another by labour**

**serve as subjects**

**1a4) to serve (God)**

**1a5) to serve (with Levitical service)**

**1b2) to make oneself a servant**

 The most significant act of our worship of God is serving Him! Being subject unto Him!

The Apostle Paul says it this way…

**Roma 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.**

**2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

Jesus says in:

**John 4:23 (NIV) Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

**24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."**

Paul tells what this spiritual act of worship is! He tells us what it means to worship the lord in Spirit and in truth!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

 Our spiritual act of worship to God is to offer God, these bodies of ours, as living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to Him!

 How do we do that?

 Paul gives us more insight in:

Gala 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

 Dying to self and living for Christ is our #1 act of worship to God!

When Paul said:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me, what he was saying was that he had offered his body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—and that it was his spiritual act of worship of God to do so.

 **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.**

 Martin Luther once said*: “God requires soul worship and men give Him body worship; He ask for our hearts and we present Him with our lips; He demands our thoughts and minds and we give Him banners and vestments and candles”.*

 God wants all of us! He wants our mind, the way we think! He wants our heart, the way that we feel; He wants our body, the way that we act!

 When we present ourselves to Christ—follow Him in our thoughts, desires and deeds—we worship God!

Scripture says thatGod is Spirit and those that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth!

 When we offer our very bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—it is a spiritual act of worship of God on our part!

 To worship (Aw-bad) the Lord God is to serve Him!

 Every time we obey God it is an act of worship on our part!

 Our obedience to God is worship in action!

 Guys, say you are at work and your boss ask you to do something that doesn’t fall under your job description and you are tempted to tell him so, but then you remember the passage of Scripture that says that you are to obey your employer and serve them as you would serve the Lord, so you go ahead and do what your boss has asked you to do---guess what? You have just worshipped God!

 You have just offered your body as a living sacrifice to God ! One that is holy and pleasing to Him!

 Wives, you’ve had a terribly busy day, one where everything that could go wrong did, and then your insensitive husband comes home from work and asks why supper is not on the table waiting on him.

 You are getting ready to unload on him with both barrels and then remember that Gods Word says, that a soft answer turns away wrath---even when that wrath is your own—so you gently say, sorry honey, dinner will be just a little late….guess what? You have just worshipped God! You have just offered your body as a living sacrifice to God! One that is holy and pleasing to Him!

 Kids, your parents want you to take out the trash but you are watching tv and really don’t want to do it right now, but you remember that the Word of God says that you are to obey your father and mother, so you get up and take out the trash---guess what? You have just worshipped God! You have just offered your body as a living sacrifice to God! One that is holy and pleasing to Him!

Paul says..

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy,**

(Gods mercy is that He has offered us forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Him whereby we pass from death to life and that life being eternal) **to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.**

**2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

The pattern of this world is for the man that is asked to do something that is not under his job description is to tell his boss --no way!

 The pattern of this world says that the overloaded wife has every right to short-circuit and blow up at her family!

 The pattern of this world is that it is OK for a child to disobey their parent, especially when the child feels that their rights are being infringed upon!

 But as Christians we have been called and commanded to **not conform any longer to the pattern of this world!**

But instead, we are to be **transformed by the renewing of our minds.**

We are not to conform to the pattern of this world but we are to be transformed!

**3339 metamorphoo {met-am-or-fo'-o}**

**1) to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure**

 It is where we get the word metamorphosis!

 The process by which a worm changes into a beautiful butterfly!

 It is what we see happened to Jesus one day on the mountain… Christ appearance was changed and was resplendent with divine brightness on the mount of transfiguration…

 It was such a dynamic transfiguration that Peter said Lord, lets build a tabernacle here and just pitch our tents and stay here forever!

 This is this process that Scripture says we are all to go though as Christians when we ask Jesus to come into our heart and be the Lord and savior of our life!

 It is this process of metamorphosis that Paul is speaking about in the life of a believer when he says..

**2Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

 Placing ourselves ‘In Christ”, living our lives in obedience to Him, is the only way that we will not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but instead, be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

 Placing ourselves “In Christ”, Living our lives in obedience to Him and His Word, is the only form of true worship to God!

Oswald Chambers once said…

*“Beware of worshipping Jesus as the Son of God, and professing your faith in Him as the Savior of the world, while you blaspheme Him by the complete evidence in your daily life that He is powerless to do anything in and through you.”*

 We can sing 100 praise choruses in a row, but if we go out and live our lives according to the pattern of this world, if we go out and live lives disobeying Gods Holy Word, then we haven’t really worshipped Him! We have just sung 100 good songs….

 Tammy Lindsey tells how the praise chorus "We Exalt Thee" took on a whole new meaning when she heard her three-year-old daughter singing her version: "We exhaust thee. We exhaust thee, O Lord."

Out of the mouth of babes!

 Words of praise that are not reinforced by a change in life Exhaust the Lord, not exalt Him!

 True Worship of God necessitates a change in life and lifestyle on our part!

True worship of God will necessitate our striving to become Holy just as He is Holy!

 True worship of God will require a heart of submission and obedience to Him!

 A heart that has bowed before Him!

A. W. Tozer said…

*“If we yearned after God even as much as a cow yearns for her calf, we would be the worshipping and effective believers God wants us to be. If we longed for God as a new bride looks forward to the return of her husband, we would be a far greater force for God than we are now.”*

A.W. Tozer also said that as Christians..

*“We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God.”*

Does our worship of God exalt Him or exhaust Him?

 Do the lives that we live bear testimony to the power and might and sufficiency of our God, or do we blaspheme God by our life and lifestyle?

 Are we worshipping God in the manner that He deserves and desires to be worshipped? Are we worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth?

 Again, worship is a whole lot more then just singing a couple Hymns and 4-5 chorus’s on Sunday mornings!

 Real worship is living a life that exemplifies Jesus Christ!

 Real worship is offering someone who is thirsty a cup of cool water in the name of Christ! Real worship is visiting the sick and afflicted, befriending the friendless, feeding the hungry, reaching out to the needy, sharing the life saving, life changing message of Jesus Christ with a lost world that desperately needs to hear that message!

 Real worship desires to become so much like Jesus that when people see us they see reflections of Him!

Hebr 12:28 (NIV) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe…

 We worship God, not just so that we can feel all warm and fuzzy inside, but we worship God simply because He is God and He is worthy of our praise, worthy of our worship!!!

“Real Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God; it whets our appetite” for God.

 How would you describe your worship of God this morning?

 Are you worshipping Him as he desires to be worshipped?

 Are you worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth?

 Is the life that you are living an extension and example of your Worship of God?

 True worship necessitates action on our part…

 Whenever we take missions offerings, as we did last week, we have an opportunity to worship God through our action…the action of giving of our substance so that others can go and share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in parts of the world that we can never go to personally!

 When we give so that others, who we may never know, Can hear the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, we worship God! Our giving in itself becomes an act, an action of our worship of God!

 Whenever we reach out to someone in need it is an act of worship of God on our part!

 Whenever we choose to suffer injustice as a Christian, instead of lashing out against the one imposing it upon us, it is an act of worship of God on our part!

 Whenever we go to times of Church fellowship when we would rather just stay home or do something we perceive as more “Fun”, it is an act of worship of God on our part.

 Every act of obedience to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is an act of worship of God on our part.

 **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.**

 Are you and I worshiping God in Spirit and in truth? Have we truly offered our bodies as living sacrifices to Him? For this is our spiritual act of worship…

 I would encourage us all to worship the Lord in word and deed as we go throughout the next week offering our very bodies as a living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to Him....