

The What, Who, Why, & How of Worship

Introduction:

- A. Although the Bible tells us Whom and how to worship, it never commands us simply to worship, for man naturally worships something. - Acts 17:22-23
- B. This lesson will answer four questions about worship.

I. **What** is worship?

- A. Old Testament: “shahah”:
to bow down, to bow down before God, to worship, to pay adoration, even without prostration (William Wilson, **Old Testament Word Studies**. 490); cf. Psalm 95:6
- B. New Testament word: “proskuneo”
 - 1. “prop. to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence” (J.H. Thayer, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 548)
 - 2. “to make obeisance, do reverence to.... It is used as an act of homage or reverence” (W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 4:235); cf. 1 Corinthians 14:25
- C. It requires prostration of the heart, not of the body. - Luke 18:9-14
- D. Worship is composed of specific acts whereby we show our devotion, love and reverence to God and is distinct from our daily service to Him in all relationships. - Genesis 22:5; Psalm 99:9

II. **Whom** should we worship?

- A. God - Matthew 4:8-10
- B. not:
 - 1. idols - Exodus 20:3-6; Revelation 21:8
 - 2. men - Acts 10:25-26
 - 3. angels - Revelation 22:8-9
- C. Thus, worship is to please God, not ourselves. - Isaiah 58:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Hebrews 13:15-16

III. **Why** should we worship?

- A. because God is worthy of our worship - Revelation 4:8-11
- B. because it brings us into fellowship with Him - Psalm 42:1
- C. Thus, the purposes of worship Are:
 - 1. to praise and glorify God - Psalm 111:1; Acts 2:46-47
 - 2. and to edify each other - Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 14:26

IV. **How** should we worship? - John 4:19-24

Conclusion:

- A. It is truly a blessed privilege to be able to worship God. - Psalm 122:1
- B. Let us determine to worship Him in spirit and truth.