

The Worship of the Church

Review of previous two lessons:

- The NT church is the kingdom of God foretold of in the OT (cf. Dan. 2:28, 44; Acts 2:28 / Rev. 5:9-10).
- The kingdom of God is a spiritual organization (Jn. 18:36; Rom. 14:17).
- The church is comprised of people who have been called out of the world of sin to serve God (I Pet. 2:9-10).
- Church people assemble (Acts 11:26; 14:27; I Cor. 11:18; Heb. 12:23) in their local areas (Acts 8:1; 11:22; 13:1; I Cor. 1:2) on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) to worship God (Acts 20:7ff).
- This lesson shall examine what the early saints did as they assembled on the first day of the week.

*“And it came to pass, that a whole year they **assembled themselves with the church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called **Christians first in Antioch**”*
(Acts 11:26)

Consider the nature of God:

- God is “spirit” (Jn. 4:23).
- The Prophet Isaiah said, *“Thus saith Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what manner of **house** will ye build unto me? For all these things hath my hand made, and so all these things came to be, saith Jehovah”* (66:11-2).
- Our worship to God will not move us to spend vast amounts of money that grand architectural wonders to worship be constructed because God is not in a building (Acts 7:48; 17:24). God is within (I Cor. 6:19; Gal. 2:20) as is His kingdom / church (Lk. 17:21).

Worship Defined:

- The word “worship” is defined as “the reverent love and allegiance accorded a deity... A set of ceremonies, prayers, or other **religious forms by which this love is expressed**” (AHD 1392). Liddell and Scott define worship as doing “obeisance (i.e., an attitude of deference or homage)... (693). The etymology of the word “worship” has its origins in the idea of worthiness. “This connotes actions motivated by an attitude that reveres, honors, or describes the worth of another person or object” (ISBE v. 4, pp. 1117). God is worthy of our worship because He has given us the opportunity, through His Son, to be forgiven of sins (Matt. 1:21).
- Sometimes people worshipped alone (Acts 10:25; Heb. 11:21) and at other times there were worship assemblies (cf. Acts 24:11). Let us not confuse the two! I may worship (express my love) the Lord in the privacy of my home by praising Him in song and prayer for His wonderful blessings of salvation; however, this does not satisfy the requirements to assemble with the saints on the first day of the week.

What is the Church to do on the first day of the week Worship Service?

- Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-24).
- Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16 etc.) (Occurs in the assembly; cf. I Cor. 14:26).
- Praying (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 2:8).
- Giving of our means on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7).
- Gospel preaching (Acts 11:26; 20:7).

The Church Assembles to Worship:

- The NT church assembled on the first day of the week to worship God (Acts 20:8ff.).
- Some forms of worship to God are acceptable and some unacceptable (cf. Jn. 4:23).
- The Word of God reveals unacceptable worship (Isa. 1:10-17; Amos 4:4-5; 5:18-24; Hos. 8:13; Matt. 15:8-9; Acts 17:22-28; Gal. 4:8-11; Col. 2:20-23).
- Those who worship God in a spirit of truth take into consideration God’s authority (Col. 3:17). One worships God (i.e., expresses love, devotion, reverence, fear, and respect) due to a true faith that God will fulfill His promise to save us from the consequences of our sins (Gen. 12:1ff; Gal. 3:10-16; Acts 13:37-39).