



## **CAYA SERIES: “WORSHIP: A LIFESTYLE EXPERIENCE”**

### **WEEK 3, LESSON 2 - “WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT”**

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES):**

The student will be able to. . .

- Interpret how Jesus ushered in the new covenant
- Demonstrate how the characteristics of a Christian mindset can be seen in one’s life
- Break down the elements involved in being a sacrifice
- Categorize the differences of being conformed from being transformed
- Describe the marks of God’s will

#### **INTRODUCTION YOUTUBE VIDEO:**

“Worship Text Video Intro” (2:23); Justin Kintzel 4/20/2009

#### **OUTLINE NOTES CONDENSED**

### **I. INTRODUCTION – 1 Peter 1:15**

#### **a. Sacrificial Service**

*Jesus’ whole life was an obedience to the Father which ultimately led Him to offer Himself in death, as the final and perfect expression of uncompromising worship - He fulfilled and replaced the temple and the whole method of approach to God associated with it.*

#### **b. Covenant Righteousness**

*Jesus showed covenant righteousness as obedience to the revealed will of God. The ethic to which Jesus calls His followers is fundamentally self-sacrificing rather than self-serving.*

### **II. THE GOSPELS**

*All 4 Gospel writers witness to a demand of integrity in life for believers, seen as faithfully directing readers to a genuine response of worship before the Triune God.*

**a. Model of Jesus**

*The life and teachings of Jesus throughout epitomize the integration between authentic worship and life as well as evidence of both periods of retreat with Christ on the mountain and service in the valley with humanity.*

**b. Messianic Era Expectations**

*The gospels are particularly concerned to stress that God's presence and God's glory, so intimately connected with the tabernacle and temple under the Mosaic covenant, and consistently at the center of Jewish expectations for the messianic era, are fully and finally experienced in Jesus Christ in His own person and work.*

**III. THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**a. Christian Life and Ministry**

*In broad terms, Christian life and ministry are viewed as the way to worship or serve the God of Israel under the new covenant. More specifically, such worship is the expression of faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ. Also, the problem of hypocritical worship was reported in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. Their death on the spot demonstrates that integrity of heart continues to be a prerequisite for acceptable service in the church.*

**b. Revelation – the God Who wants to be known**

*Paul, entering Athens to proclaim the gospel found a multitude of idols to gods of every name and description. Just as they were at the time of Paul, people everywhere are still searching, still wondering if there's a God they can know. It's a revelation that is accessible to all. God's face couldn't be clearly known until His Son appeared. Jesus walked this earth in plain sight so that anyone seeking God could find their way to Him. God wants you to know that the incredible desire for worship rooted deep inside your heart was crafted for Him.*

**IV. THE LETTERS**

**a. Basis for Worship**

*Paul forcefully declared faith as the only basis for worship and the authentic route of responding to the awesome death and resurrection of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. The gospel is about what God in Christ has done (and continues to do) in the course of world history.*

**b. Christian Mindset**

*In Philippians, Paul, outlined at least 6 basic characteristics: **1.** prayer in worship was a foundational element; **2.** it grows out of an incredible sense of God's presence in one's life; **3.** to live is Christ (1:19-2:11) and that they needed to have the mind of Christ; **4.** Christians do not put their trust in the ways of the world ("the flesh," 3:4), but rather in the power of Christ's resurrection (3:10); **5.** recognize the need for the community to work together in*

fulfilling the purpose of Christ; and **6.** to rejoice and live in the expectation of the return of the Lord.

**c. Ministry of Christ**

*The ministry of Christ – past, present and future – is portrayed in Hebrews as the only basis on which we can relate to God and offer Him acceptable worship. Hebrews 12:14 provides the most direct declaration of the preconditions to acceptable worship in the NT. These concerns underlie the later appeal for “reverence and awe” as the dispositional prerequisites to acceptable worship (12:28-29). The goal of pursuing peace and holiness is “seeing the Lord.”*

**V. ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP – Romans 12:1, 2**

**a. Mercies of God**

*“I beseech you” (parakaleō)—implore you, urge you, beg you—devote yourselves to God. The mercies of God [oiktirmon] of God,” refers to all that Paul has already written described in detail in the first 11 chapters of Romans. So great had been the mercy of God, that this constituted a reason why they should present their bodies, etc. The word mercies here denote favor shown to the undeserving, or kindness, compassion, etc. This is the glorious message of how much God loves us and of what God has done for us.*

**b. Living Sacrifice**

*Thus, the body represents the total person; it is the instrument by which all our service is given to God. Offering our bodies as a living sacrifice means we do not live for our desires, our plans, our dreams, or ourselves. All of that is surrendered to Jesus and we live for Him. Sacrifice is the offering of life and other things as a result of overflowing unreasonable love for God in response to His love and fellowship. Elijah is an example of this kind of lifestyle, and the fire that consumed his offering in the midst of the wicked prophets was a physical demonstration of this spiritual reality of his life, a clear distinction of the difference between godly and wicked sacrifice. (1 Kings 18:36-39).*

*Note **three facts**: **1.** God demands the believer's body, **2.** the believer is to present his body to God, and **3.** the believer's offering of his body is to be sacrificial. This is the picture of Old Testament believers taking animals and offering them to God as sacrifices.*

*A living sacrifice means at least **four things**: **1.** a constant, continuous sacrifice, **2.** a sacrifice of a person's body wherever the body is (a particular place is not needed), **3.** that the body sacrifices its own desires and lives for God (a holy, righteous, pure, clean, and moral life), and **4.** the body lives for God by serving God.*

**Matthew 22:37-38**

**Hebrews 12:28**

**Galatians 2:20**

### c. **Spiritual Worship**

The word "**present**," (**paristemi**) is a temple and Levitical term meaning to put on the altar or die to one's own agenda. In this context, it means that we are putting our lives on the altar, giving it up in every sense imaginable.

The dedication of the body to God is "**acceptable**" (**euareston**) to God. The word means well-pleasing, approving and extremely satisfying to God. God accepts and joys and rejoices over a body that is dedicated and living for Him.

The word "**reasonable/spiritual**" (**logikēn**) means rational, intelligent, logical. It is an act of the mind thinking and figuring out what and how to do something. Worship is something that comes from the spirit, and it is also something that originates in the reason or intellect of a person. Well, it implies that the mind is actively involved in the act of worship and that worship is not just some mindless activity where we let our emotions take full control.

The word "**service/worship**" (**latreian**) means worship, ministry implying some kind of ritual service unto God that this kind of worship is intended to be an act of praise rendered unto God.

### d. **Conformed and Transformed**

To conform is literally to be molded or stamped according to pattern. The word "**conformed**" (**suschēmatisō**) means, to put on the form, fashion, or appearance of another. It may refer to anything pertaining to the habit, manner, dress, style of living, etc., of others. It is a present passive plural imperative that indicates that you are allowing yourself to be molded and shaped by the world.

The believer is to be "**transformed**" (**metamorphousthe**), the Greek verb shows that this is a process, not a single event. It is the very nature and essence, the inseparable part, the unchanging shape of a man. The believer must undergo a radical change within his inner being, his real self—his very nature, essence, personality, inner being, his inner man—must be changed. It is a present passive plural imperative, which means that you are not the one performing the work, but you're allowing the Holy Spirit to do the transforming of your mind.

Conforming is about our behavior, transforming is about our character. God desires to change both. This is only possible through One Man - Jesus Christ.

The word "**world**" (**aiōn**) in the simplest of terms means the world itself and everything in it, for it is all corruptible.

The believer's mind is to be "**renewed**" (**anakainōsis**), which means to be made new, readjusted, changed, turned around, regenerated; the changing into new views and feelings applicable to the whole spirit. It refers to a new way of thinking, a mind desiring to be conformed to God rather than to the world. We are removing the world's system of thinking and replacing it with the things of Christ; at its most basic level, we want to think the same way God thinks.

**Galatians 6:15**  
**Ephesians 4:24**  
**1 Peter 2:2**  
**Colossians 3:1-3**  
**Colossians 3:10**  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**  
**2 Corinthians 10:5**  
**Isaiah 64:8**

**e. Will of God**

*The will of God relates to his commands in regard to our conduct, his doctrines in regard to our belief, his providential dealings in relation to our external circumstances. It implies that that thing which is good is his will; or that we may find his will by finding that which is good and perfect*

*The believer must "prove" (**dokimazō**) the will of God. The word used here is commonly applied to metals, to the operation of testing, or trying them by the severity of fire, etc. Hence it also means to explore, investigate, ascertain. The word "prove" means both to find and to follow God's will.*

*Note also how the will of God is described. Meditating upon the threefold description stirs a person to crave after God's will. God's will is said to be: 1. "good" (**agathon**): beneficial, rich, bountiful, suitable, moral, 2. "acceptable" (**euareston**): pleasing, satisfactory, welcomed, that which will be pleasing to God, or which he will approve, and 3. "perfect" (**teleios**): without error or mistake, flawless, complete, absolute, free from any need, short of nothing, completely fulfilled. Free from defect, stain, or injury. Applied to religion, it means that which is consistent, which is carried out.*

*There are two very clear things that God is looking for in every person who believes, to be a true worshiper and to go and make disciples of all nations.*

**Psalms 27:4**  
**John 4:23**  
**Matthew 28:18-20**  
**James 1:22**  
**Colossians 1:10**

**INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY**

brainstorm list of the forms of worship given to Jesus in the Luke 19:28-44 passage.

## [Small Group Activity]

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### BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

1. What insight/revelation/understanding did you receive from memorizing Hebrews 13:15? What version did you memorize the verse from?
2. What are your reactions to the video?
3. Judge the value of how Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the old covenant.
4. What questions would you ask yourself when trying to determine your mindset over a particular problem?
5. What are the points of the underlying theme of being a sacrifice?
6. How would you deal with explaining how conformity can be the opposite of transformation?
7. Provide a definition for discerning God's will.

## [Follow-up Home Assignment]

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### DIRECTIONS:

Sacrifice for Christians does not involve killing an animal on an altar—it is willingly surrendering ourselves to the will of God. And we don't do this because of what we will gain or even because we know it is right. We do it out of gratitude for what God has already done for us through Jesus Christ. This living sacrifice involves the body, mind, and will. There can be no holding back. Living sacrificially can be difficult when life is easy and comfortable, and where success is defined by the world in terms of "more is better." When we have so much, we lose sight of the fundamental importance of serving God through serving others. We focus on our own needs and defend our rights. As a result, we don't show others the kind of love the Lord has shown to us.

What makes offering our bodies as living sacrifices an act of worship? How can our minds be renewed? (*Optional: See Romans 8:5, 9, 12, 13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 3:14-21; 4:22-24; 5:1; 2 Timothy 3:16; Luke 11:13; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:11*)

### MEMORY VERSE – COLOSSIANS 3:1, 2

Write out the verses on the index card in any version. Write on the back of the card, any revelation or insight God gives you as you meditate on the verses for the week.