

The Subject, Object and Nature of Worship: Jesus

The Gospel Story: Evangelical Convictions – not just what we believe but in whom we believe. Fighting about styles and your preference is as silly as it would be if you were on the Titanic and died fighting over the color of lifejackets.

We are all about worship, not style of worship, but object of worship.

When we then figure out the object, then does that negate style? No.

Too often people trade a Sunday of worship to worship God as they please. How we engage with God is very important, and it must be on His terms as we will see in our New Testament story today.

Pray

We are looking at a story of great reform by King Hezekiah. It is in the midst of a story where worship has gone bad.

People turn to idols in times of trouble.

We need cleaning.

Remembering God's character and saving acts.

v. 10 makes a covenant with the Lord. "Sorry, we are going to do it the right way."

v. 15-21

I am amazed that there was so much preparation for corporate worship in the Old Testament: following regulations or ceremonial rituals for the preparation and cleansing of the people.

Some of the most confusing parts in the Bible to the average Christian are the Old Testament and all its laws. We wrestle with the questions like:

"How does the Old Testament law relate to my life?"

"Is the Old Testament law to be obeyed today?" not wear clothing mixed fibers

"Should we follow the festivals and Hebrew ways of old?"

Three things I want to briefly mention about the OT Law.

First, the purpose of the law is to be a mirror of God's perfect righteousness,

and our sinfulness. The law shows our weakness as a schoolmaster so that we might seek the strength found in Christ and drive us to the gospel.

Second, the Old Testament points to Jesus, the Savior of the world.

As the Bible says the Old Testament laws were a shadow of that to come.

Thus we do not worship the shadow but the substance found in Jesus (Heb. 7-10).

These Old Testament laws and ceremonies are important as they point to the beauty and preparation of the coming of Jesus.

If you noticed the title of this series is,

Worship: The Biblical Theology of Christian Worship

It is not just Biblical worship, or Hebrew Worship,

but New covenant worship, gospel inspired and centered worship

Third, following the Old Testament law is not a means to complete the Christian experience.

Follow only Jesus for He is the completion of the law.

Galatians is a great book to read to help us understand the role of the OT Law in the Christian life. 1:7 some we trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ. The Galatians were in danger of trying to "*finish by means of the flesh*" (3:3) after they have entered into Christianity through truth, faith and the Spirit.

They wanted to turn back to the Law and enter into the slavery of “*observing special days and months and seasons and years*” (4:9-10) which were the Jewish festivals, laws. We are not under the Law (Rom 7:1-6).

We are not to follow Jewish customs but to understand them, for to follow them today would be a stumbling block and ultimately reject Jesus. I love the Old Testament and study it often and I am glad that I took years of learning the Hebrew Language.

Do I celebrate the Passover?

I celebrate Jesus, thus I celebrate the Passover through Jesus. I Cor. 5:7

Let us look at one of the greatest passages on worship which speaks of these issues:

John 4. There is a proper way to worship God. And in the New Testament we will see the beauty of what Jesus did and how the gospel transforms our way of worship.

The Samaritans thought that true worship was on a mountain, Mount Gerizim.

Jesus has 3 responses to the lady answering the question of nature of worship:

He deals with the location issue and reality issue.

1 -The current place of worship is now going to be obsolete.

Ceremonies and restrictions to time and place is now changed and new

Jesus changes the former definitive place.

There is to be no debate on where. Cannot be confined to a place

Not tied to a particular place but tied up in the person of Jesus

Don't worry we are going to talk about the importance of our location as a church and corporate worship.

2 - The Jews were the chosen vehicle in which the revelation of Jesus came.

The Samaritans brought syncretism of foreign gods into their understanding of worship.

Not that they did not believe or unable to know- the object of true worship was unknown.

3 – The true Subject, object and Nature of Worship is found in Jesus.

No longer is worship in the confines of Jerusalem or Gerizim.

How we engage with God is very important, and it must be on His terms.

True worship can only happen through Christ.

True worship cannot be identified to a particular location.

True worship cannot be from one who is not born of the Spirit. John 3:5-8

True worship of God is Spiritual, like His nature.

Jesus Christ is how and where we meet the great God of heaven,

He is the greatest worship leader.

SPIRIT - This is not to be taken as spiritually contra carnal

Christian worship is characterized by and only acceptable in spirit and truth brought to us by Jesus. True worship is a matter of spirit, not a physical location (church, building) or following ritual liturgy of external actions

Not material, thus do not worship him in a material way (idols)

God is Spirit, light I Jn 1:5, Love I Jn 4:8, Consuming fire Heb 12:29

Not emotion or thoughts but from the indwelling of my center, my heart

Only those who are spiritually alive can worship God in the correct way.

TRUTH This is not to be taken as truthfully not falsely.
Not represented adequately by as abstract concept. "wonder is the worship"
Nor an idol depicting His likeness (material)
Jesus is truth and opens the reality of God and provides true access to the Father.

The new covenant changes many things which were foreshadows of Jesus: Hebrews 7-10
The Levitical priesthood has changed. Jesus is the great High Priest
The location of the Temple has changed...Jesus' body becomes the temple (church)
The sacrifice is no longer a lamb...Jesus the Lamb now sacrifice of praise and life.
The times of worship has changed...
Jesus opened the terms of worship to be continuously.

Not separate characteristics not in another spirit and another in truth.
Every act of worship must have both. Without spirit – formulaic and dead
Without truth – vain and mystical wonder

Here is a misconception "Worship is the same as singing"

I have found that people mean different things when they use the word worship.
Most of the time in our Bibles, when we read the English word worship it has little to do with singing or praise music. As one of my teachers taught, worship embraces "relationship, attitude, act, life."

Worship entails: an expression of heart (attitude), body (gesture), and life (ritual) we enjoy in the Spirit from the work and completeness of Jesus, through whom God's will and truth are finally and ultimately revealed. As we will see in a few weeks in Romans 12, worship is what we give to God and it is much more than singing. We are to do everything for the glory of God, there is no model of particular order

"This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19).

We do this to reinforce and remember, recalling the great work of Jesus
Join us as we actively remember His atoning death and look forward to His promised return by participation in the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:23-26).