

Worship God

The Theology and Practice of Worship (Part Three)

Biblical Foundations

➤ *Worship is ascribing honor and worth to God as God*

- the chief end of God in creation is His own glory
- the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever

Biblical Foundations

Problem

➤ *We are all by nature idolaters not worshipers!*

Biblical Foundations

Romans 1:18-23

- 21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
22) Professing to be wise, they became fools,
23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Biblical Foundations

Romans 1:18-23

➤ *Two-fold problem*

- (1) Our sinful rebellion resulting in blind unbelief; we do not honor God as God but worship idols
- (2) As a result, God's righteous wrath stands over and against us

Biblical Foundations

Since the Fall, true worship does not occur naturally but is only something made possible for us by God

Biblical Foundations

Restoring True Worship

1. Man's Need

- *Redemption* – provision for man's sin and God's just wrath
- *Revelation* – overcoming man's blindness with the true knowledge of God's glory

Biblical Foundations

Restoring True Worship

2. God's Provision

A. Old Covenant

- God's revelation to the Patriarchs and through Moses and the prophets
- Tabernacle/temple, ritual offerings, the Law, the priesthood – means of acceptable worship

Biblical Foundations

Restoring True Worship

2. God's Provision

B. New Covenant

- Jesus is the final and complete revelation of God
- Jesus fulfills what the Old Covenant pictured as the basis of all acceptable worship
- The Spirit opens our eyes/heart to the beauty of God's glory in Christ

Biblical Foundations

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the one who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Biblical Foundations

Implications

1. All true worship of God is in and through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit
2. Jesus Christ is explicitly the object of our worship on the basis of His saving work
3. Redemption, forgiveness, mercy, grace and love are central themes of our worship of God

Biblical Foundations

Revelation 5:1-14