

Praise and Worship 1

Personal Bible study

Introduction to this syllabus

Praise to us is the adoration of God. We will discover that it is active, assertive, demonstrative and open. Not that Praise must always consist of these things; it could be silent while still hone the intensity.

1. **Vocal:** Ps 145:21 "*My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.*" Ps 63:3 "*My lips shall praise you.*"
2. **Audible:** Ps 47:1a "*clap your hands all ye people.*" Ps 150:2-5 (illustrates instruments used in praise to God).
3. **Non-audible/vocal:** Ps 63:4 "*In your name I will lift up my hands.*" David danced before the Lord (1 Chronicles 15:28-29). Also 1 Chronicles 16:29 illustrating here that praise was not vocal but something purposeful is happeningⁱ

Why Praise God?

Open Question: Ask yourself why you think it is important to worship and give praise to the Lord God? Why not take a moment to list some reasons why we must praise God.

Now we will concentrate on **why** we should praise God and **how** we should praise God. There are many reasons why we should praise, but let's approach these reasons from a central theme and work along.

The unpacking of my presupposition

Firstly we must ascertain the meaning of praise. **Praise is the act of expressing commendation and admiration etc.** To sing a persons praise, is to commend that person highly. Commendation implies worthiness.ⁱⁱ So to praise someone must mean that he or she is worthy to receive an expression of admiration for what they have achieved.

When you finish preaching, leading worship or whatever - it could even be some achievement from within the secular environment, when you have done a good job you appreciate some commendation (expression of your worth) or credit for what you have achieved, if you have performed well then you are worthy of the applause, you are worthy of the compliments, you are worthy of the tributes. That I think is praise, and we all receive some form of praise at some time or the other in fact we need it. The supportive wife needs praise for what she does and likewise

the husband. When you present a bunch of flowers to your spouse your actions speaks volumes and physically nourishes her esteem. Praise is a powerful thing. our children need it, the pupil needs it, the apprentice needs it.

Now when it comes to praise and God, it becomes something that is on a different level. The reason for that is related to the first question I asked you which was Why do you think it is important to worship and give praise to the Lord God? The obvious answer is because of what he has done. But what has he done? He has done everything – he has **created**.

Principles Of Creation

Remember this principle, when you create something good, you get credited for it. When the artist paints a masterpiece, she get the credit for it, **but the artist can only ever reproduce what God has somewhere created**.

Now the truth is this; God is the creator par excellence, if God is the creator supreme he should receive the praise and the credit for what he has done Psalm 19:1. When you've created a thing, it does not look up at you and tell you have failed or give credit elsewhere. Neither should we. We have been created by him, and should therefore worship him and praise him and magnify him. It is not that God deserves the praise; yes he is worthy of the praise, **but praises literally belong to him!** When we chose not to praise God, understand this we are withhold what belongs to him Psalm 89:5-8; **Psalm 145:3**. He is not just worthy of the glory, he **owns** the glory.

God owns the praise

By virtue of being the creator, his work his creation **must** express his worthiness. That credit and praise must not go elsewhere. When we can truly appreciate this principle, every scripture concerning praise will have a new meaning, and this is where I will be coming from on this subject of praise. When the creation acknowledges and praises God the creator for his worthiness, **that creation is in synch** with its pure destiny. To not praise God, is to react negatively to our purpose. My presupposition is this - **God our creator does not only deserve the praise, but praise belongs to him**. If we refrain from praising him as he deserves, he does not cease to be the God, the rocks will praise him. And we, this aspect of creation will simply become dysfunctional.

Principle and Presupposition verified in Revelation 4

When you read this chapter you visualise God sitting on the throne in majesty and splendour; he reigns supreme over all of his creation. When we praise; we confess and commit ourselves to the sovereignty of God. To not praise God with our

choicest praise - **indicates a deficiency in understanding.**ⁱⁱⁱ

When we praise we are in sync with heaven for praise is continual there.^{iv}

Now let me show you a complete lie

Satan wants to usurp the praise which belongs to God Eze.28: 12-17; Isa.14: 12-17.

Satan described as the father of lies John 8:44 "...*When he lies, he speaks of his native language, for he is a liar, and the father of lies.*" And he is lying to humanity today. He wants to deceive us so that we don't give God what he owns.

So here are some scenarios that halt true praise

- We cannot praise because we have pressing things on our minds
- We feel depressed, distressed, down cast
- ***We feel weak, tired and drained***
- Our thoughts wonder all over the place and we cannot concentrate
- Somehow he convinces us to not fully commit ourselves to the Lord and so miss out on the truth and that truth encapsulates our freedom.
- We assume that it can only happen on our chosen day of worship
- Note some other lies that hinder our giving God praise he owns

It is my opinion that when we do not acknowledge the truth that God is worthy and do not practice praise. When we hold back, we allow that glory to go to the Devil.

How? The absolute truth is that God is creator and praise belongs to him, if we do not give it to him and Satan's job is to hinder it, we are re-directing it elsewhere.

Worship

What's the difference?

John Stott states "Christians believe that true worship is the highest and noblest activity of which man, by the grace of God, is capable."^v

Worship translated into English simply means, "worth-ship." In other words we worship that which is worthy.^{vi} So we give to God the praise the glory and the honour because he alone is worthy.

The most popular Hebrew word for worship is *shachah*. This means to **bow down**, to do **homage** or even to **prostrate** oneself. It was a physical way of showing submission, adoration and service. The action implies bowing to the knee and putting the forehead on the ground or being prostrate.

The Greek word *proskuneo*, implies **reverence** and **obeisance** John 4:21-24; Matthew 18:26. It literally means to "kiss toward." These highlights in ones mind the kissing of the hand, which implies **affection**, **adoration** and **respect**. So worship is about an attitude of **respect** and **reverence** and **wonder**, but it is also public in its actions, **bowing**, **praising** and **servng**.^{vii}

Worship Lifestyle ('with my body I Honour you')

We don't just worship God in Church, but our lives should exhibit beams of worship towards God at all times. We worship - we adore him because we acknowledge who he is. So our lives are to be a reflection of that fact. In our churches we must choose to worship him we must choose to serve him, we must choose to bend the knee before him in recognition of who he is. Still our lives are to mirror this truth **by serving him**. Romans 12:1 shows us that we cannot take anything for granted but in light of the mercy of God (which is elaborated on in the previous chapters) we are encouraged to submit ourselves completely to God on a daily basis, **for this is our spiritual act of worship**.

Just as the husband and wife vow to honour each other with their bodies. So we must vow to honour God with our lives at all times. Worship never stops. You never stop being the husband or the wife, in the same way you never stop being the worshiper.

Worship must be taken seriously, for not all worship is acceptable to God (Mark. 7:6-7; Psalm 51:16-17). God abhors lip service; worship to God must come from the heart. **What does the heart imply?** (Conviction, belief, desires. How does a person become a Christian? By believing with all of the heart. Then what? You do something). So God rejects worship which just pops out from the lips, he only accepts worship which stems from an irrevocable conviction of who and what God is, married to the choice of the worshiper. We do not know what he is, but we know by the fact that he is God the creator the one who is in complete control, he is worthy and more. Praise belongs to him honour he owns it, we must be convinced of this and give him the praise and the honour and the glory he and only he deserves.

Maybe we need to spend much time on this subject, for there is more in the bible about how not to worship than how to. It is not about how many songs we sing or volume or about ceremony but the state of the heart. Not all worship is pleasing to God.^{viii} This is an important fact to be remembered.

ⁱ J.R Taylor., The Hallelujah Factor. (see **Praise defined**)

ⁱⁱ Collins Concise Dictionary Pg. 1051

ⁱⁱⁱ J.R. Taylor ., Hallelujah. Pg. 24-5

^{iv} J.R. Taylor ., Hallelujah. Pg. 25

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- ^v John Stott., Christ the controversialist: A Study in some essentials of evangelical religion. Pg. 160 as cited by J.M.Boice Foundations of the Christian Faith. Pg.586
- ^{vi} Warren Wiersbe., Real Worship. Pg. 21
- ^{vii} Warren Wiersbe., Real Worship. Pg. 21
- ^{viii} J.M.Boice Foundations of the Christian Faith. Pg.588-9