

Whatever happened to worship?

A short study of parts of book by A.W. Tozer

To prepare for the first week of this study, read these first 3 pages and all of Chapter 1 of Tozer - parts in green are either central reminders or background material for this study.

A REMINDER OF OUR STUDY PHILOSOPHY We must remind ourselves of the basic philosophy of studies in the series of Fullness of Life in Christ. We must begin at the centre. Why? Bible Studies that do not begin with central issues are like getting low scores on a dartboard. Generally speaking (and except for a few lucky strikes from being taught randomly from anywhere in the Bible) the highest scores in darts are mostly nearest the centre. So it is with the study of the Bible. The central issues are to do with the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, closely followed by how those events can change our relationships with each other - us with God and us with each other. Unity or Oneness of life is the central theme of the outcomes of those events in the life of Jesus. *(So it is of little use teaching new disciples things like creation, witnessing or, as some do, from one or two book in the Bible. The Spirit of God needs to be firmly established first, by knowing and living out the central issues)*

So, after we become believers through courses such as Christianity Explained, we can move straight into the basis of all relationship issues, as per the first 17 units of study in Fullness of Life in Christ. These can be found at <http://www.goodnews.org.au/fullness/index-2008.html> In essence, the following 2 verses cover the most central issue in the Bible - about oneness with Christ.

John 17:23 Where Jesus said, "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Galatians 2:20 Where Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Studies that would be in the RED centre of the dartboard
(see below) would be

- The Mystery of the New Testament
- Until Christ is formed in you.
- What is the Nature of Man?

- Biblical Stages of the Christian life.
- Invitation to Live.
- How then shall we live?
- The Enigma of Romans 7. The Misunderstanding that Blocks Life in the Spirit.
- Oneness in Christ - The Major N.T. Theme. Unity through broken bread.
- The Ultimate fullness of life - living in the 1000 year Millennium period.
- **This study - Whatever happened to worship?**



The remainder of the studies could be fitted into the GREEN circle surrounding the red dot.

The purpose in doing things this way is so that the disciple gets to know intellectually and then KNOW by the Spirit of God, whose presence will now show, to be more and more evident. John called this the witness of the Spirit.

So with this in mind, imagine with the dartboard structure, those themed studies in their right place - in the very RED centre, not only of the board, but of the central issues of life, lived out from the Word of God.

The Meaning of Worship. What is the Westminster Confession?

The word Worship appears in the KJV 108 times. In the 17th century it was recognised in the newly written Westminster Confession of Faith.

Background material to Westminster Confession of faith - to gloss over. (The **Westminster Confession of Faith** is a Reformed confession of faith. Drawn up by the 1646 Westminster Assembly as part of the Westminster Standards to be a confession of the Church of England, it became and remains the 'subordinate standard' of doctrine in the

Church of Scotland, and has been influential within Presbyterian churches worldwide. (**Mention Calvinism & Arminianism**)

"What did the Puritans have that we lack today? ... Maturity! We are spiritual dwarfs. Protestantism is man-centred, manipulative, success-oriented, self-indulgent, and sentimental, 3000 miles wide and half an inch deep. The Puritans by contrast were spiritual giants. They served a great God and had a passion for godliness. Their Christian experience was natural and unselfconscious, while ours is often artificial and boastful. They were committed to spiritual integrity and had a fear of hypocrisy." (From the Emmaus Journal, p. 79, Fall 1991, by permission) What most characterized Puritan religion and government was the insistence that both should rely on Biblical teachings. The Puritans in Great Britain despised the way the state church and the government were run so much that they helped create the Puritan Revolt in 1649. In America, Puritan insistence on a limited government helped form the US government's Constitution.

To glorify God is to extol His attributes—**His holiness, faithfulness, mercy, grace, love, majesty, sovereignty, power, and omniscience**, to name a few—rehearsing them over and over in our minds and telling others about the singular nature of the salvation only He offers.)

Worship. What is it?

The first question in the Westminster Confession of Faith is:

Question: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

So, "What does it mean to glorify God?"

Answer: To "glorify" God means to give glory to Him. The word *glory* as related to God in the Old Testament bears with it the idea of greatness of splendour. In the New Testament, the word translated **"glory" means "dignity, honour, praise and worship."** Putting the two together, we find that glorifying God means to acknowledge His greatness and give Him honour by **praising and worshipping Him**, primarily because He, and He alone, **deserves to be praised, honoured and worshipped**. God's glory is the essence of His nature, and we give glory to Him by recognizing that essence.

What underpins true Worship of God? Here is the answer from Jesus

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

So, we need both SPIRIT and TRUTH to worship God

In your own words, summarize what could be the aims of this study? As part of your own preparation, write down some ideas here in this space.

Worship in the Christian church - Tozer Chapter 1 From

here on we are discussing Tozer's writing to get to get the best understanding of what he writes about worship, whilst referring to any other related scriptures on the subject. (Either yours - or any of these)

P8 We have need of nothing. But there is every indication that we need to worship.

P4 Tozer writes: We should not be concerned about working for God until we have learned the meaning and delight of worshipping Him.....Then, out of deep worship, we do His work. (that will not be carnal or worldly religious projects)

P1. *We are missing genuine sacred offerings of ourselves and out worship to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Compare with Laodicea)*

P2. *What has happened to our worship? Can we say we worship when we fail to show forth His love and compassion?*

P3. *If we are led by the Spirit of God and if we show forth the love of God this world needs, we become winsome saints.*

P3. *Witnessing without words shows the nature of God and of the life of Jesus within us.*

P5. *Anyone bored by worship is not ready for heaven.*

P6. *When the Holy Spirit comes amongst us we become a worshipping people. When filled by His love, mercy and truth, our worship style may not please everyone.*

P8. *We do not know the kind of spiritual blessing and delights the Holy Spirit is waiting to provide amongst God's worshipping people. Because we are not true worshippers, we spend a lot of time freewheeling, burning up fuel, making noise, but not getting anywhere. Mere entertainment does not help.*

P9. *The beautiful part of worship is that it prepares us and enables us to zero in on the important things that must be done for God. In Paul's time, things were done by people blazing with the radiant worship of their God.*

P10. What do you think of this? Whenever the church has come out of her lethargy, rising from her sleep and into the tides of revival and spiritual renewal, true worship has always been behind it.

P10 And this! If we give ourselves to God's call to worship, everyone will do more than they do now.

Watch this video! (IN MY SEAT) This amazing story is about a pilot who was supposed to be on American Airlines Flight 11 the morning of 9/11. Flight 11 was the first Boeing 767 to fly into one of the buildings at the World Trade Center on 9/11. It really is one incredible story, inc. worship, that must be shared and watched to the end. Click here: [IN MY SEAT](#)

Much that is called worship is NOT! From Tozer Chapter 3

P22 Although God does not need ANYTHING, He does desire the adoration and worship of His created children.

P29. It is impossible for us to worship God without an impartation of the Holy Spirit, for it is the operation of the Spirit that enables us to worship Him acceptably.

P23. We must learn to worship God the way He wants and not as we please. (it is possible to have a form of authentic religious experience worship, quite apart from Christ and salvation. Some forms of religious experience are not acceptable to God.

P24. The reality of true worship is always in Spirit and in truth.

P24-26. Some worship that is not true godly worship - sacrifices to the devil - Idolatry - Cain's worship - (*Cain did not believe that man's sin was eternally important. *His lack of blood sacrifice.* Cain assumed he was deserving of acceptance by God and refused the judgement of God. * Cain believed that sin was not a serious matter, whereas God knows sin robs us of purpose and joy in life.

P26-28. Other forms of unacceptable worship are: * Picking out who we like to worship and rejecting those we do not like. (the good Samaritan story) * Following the ways of humanism and psychology. * Placing experience as more important than what the Bible says. * Worshipping creation, rather than the creator. * We have almost lost the capacity to wonder at the creation we see every day.

P29. People who are not born again or have the leading of the Holy Spirit still follow the ancient impulse to "worship something".

P30. Without the infusion of the Holy Spirit there can be no true worship. Millions of cultured, religious, church traditions or church customs are not actually reaching God at all.

P30 We need to double our efforts to tell the world that God is Spirit and to worship Him it must be through Spirit and truth.

True worship demands the new birth. From Tozer Chapter 2

The whole chapter can be summed up in this way. P12-13. God does not want shallow minded and worldly Christians bragging about Him. God's highest desire is that every one of His believing children who could so love and so adore Him that we are continually in His presence, in Spirit and in truth. That is worship indeed!

How does the Bible define worship, through Hebrew & Greek languages?

OLD TESTAMENT (Hebrew Language)

Strong's 07812 שָׁחָה shachah shaw-khaw'

(Strong's is a recognized definer of all words in the Bible)

Number of times word appears AV (KJV)-**worship** 99, **bow** 31, **bow down** 18, obeisance 9, **reverence** 5, **fall down** 3, themselves 2, **stoop** 1, **crouch** 1, misc 3; 172 (Obeisance is a gesture or movement of the body, such as a curtsy, that expresses deference or homage)

Worship in Social and Family life {#Mt 18:19 Lu 1:10 Ac 1:14 4:24 12:12 21:5} Worship, True & False.

1) Miscellaneous Topics relating to true worship

1a) **Of God Enjoined** {#De 26:10 2Ki 17:36 1Ch 16:29 Ps 29:2 95:6 96:9 99:5 Zec 14:17 Mt 4:10 Joh 4:24 Re 14:7 15:4 19:10 22:9} Worship, True & False

1b) **Of Christ** {#Mt 2:11 14:33 28:9 Lu 24:52 Heb 1:6 Re 5:8}

1e) **True Attitude** {#Le 10:3 Ps 5:7 29:2 89:7 93:5 Ec 5:1 Hab 2:20 Joh 4:24}

2) Other words related to worship

Reverence, For Christ {See 3033}

Reverence, **For God and Sacred Things** Enjoined {See 3030}

Reverence, **For the Sanctuary** {See 3031}

Reverence, **For Men of God** {See 3032}

Humility, Promises Concerning {See 1714}

Humility, Enjoined {See 1715}

NEW TESTAMENT (Greek Language)

Strong's 4352 προσκυνεω proskuneo pros-koo-neh' -o

Number of times word appears AV (NKJ)-worship 60 times in NT - From 4314 and a probable derivative of 2965 (meaning **to kiss**, like **a dog licking his master's hands**)

1) To **kiss the hand** to (towards) one, in token of **reverence**.

2) Among the Orientals, esp. the Persians, **to fall upon the knees** and **touch the ground with the forehead** as an expression of **profound reverence**

3) In the NT by **kneeling or prostration** to **do homage** (to one) or make **obedience**, whether in order to **express respect** or to **make supplication**

3a) used of **homage** shown to men and beings of superior rank - to the Jewish high priests - to God - to Christ - to heavenly beings

4) To **revere**, to worship 1391 **δοξα** doxa dox'-ah

5) AV-glory 145, glorious 10, **honour** 6, **praise** 4, **dignity** 2, worship 1; 168

Other defining words for worship

1) **opinion**, judgment, view

2) opinion, **estimate**, whether good or bad concerning someone

2a) in the NT always **a good opinion concerning one**, resulting in **praise, honour, and glory**

3) splendour, brightness

3b) **magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace**

3c) **majesty**

3c1) a thing belonging to God, - the **kingly majesty** which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the **absolute perfection of the deity**

3c2) a thing belonging to Christ

3c2a) the kingly **majesty of the Messiah**

3c2b) the absolutely perfect inward or **personal excellency of Christ**; the majesty

4) a most glorious condition, **most exalted state**

4a) of **that condition with God the Father** in heaven to which Christ was raised after he had achieved his work on earth

4b) the glorious condition of **blessedness** into which is appointed and promised that true Christians shall enter after their Saviour's return from heaven.

What preventing true worship? (Try to add to this list)

- × Legalism instead of Spirit. × Self-effort instead of His life through us.
- × Not knowing He does live in us. × Not knowing the Spirit truth of His word.
- × Judging instead of (agape) loving. × Not keeping short accounts with God.
- × Not sacrificing time to the Lord. × Flesh ruling over our spirit.

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