



Prepare for Worship Revelation 5:11-14

Today we're going to begin a series of _____ lessons on worship. The English word "worship" _____ the old English word "worthship"! It's by our words, our attitudes, and our actions that we tell God that He is _____ of our praise and adoration. Worship is not an _____ that we have in the presence of God, but the act of _____ God our best when we're in His presence. Worship is a mental or spiritual act, a _____ of awe and reverence in the presence of the Divine. Worship comes from the Greek word proskuneo, which _____ "throwing oneself on the ground to show respect and awe." When we come into the presence of God for worship, we are entering _____ ground (Exodus 3:5). Worship is by its very _____ an act of reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28-29). Worship that _____ God requires some preparation.

What are we doing when we _____ together for worship? If we are to prepare for worship, we must _____ what it is that we're planning to do.

First, worship is internal; it comes from the _____. One can worship internally without doing anything externally, but one cannot worship externally without doing anything internally. The Jews of Zechariah's day feasted and fasted for _____ and not for God. They went through the _____ but they didn't involve the heart (Zechariah 7:5-6). God isn't seeking worshipers who have their _____ elsewhere or are simply going through the motions; He is seeking worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

Second, worship is intentional. One cannot worship God accidentally; it must be an _____ act. The unfortunate thing is that some Christians come to a _____ to socialize or to see a production, and they never intend to worship. Jesus spoke about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, whose worship was only an _____ show and not from the heart (Matthew 15:8). Genuine _____ to God comes from a sincere devotion and obedience to the Lord.

Third, worship is vertical. True worship will _____ the church; but the primary purpose of worship is vertical. Worship takes place when our hearts and our spirits show _____ and praise to God our Father (Hebrews 13:15).

Fourth, worship is momentary. Like eating, it has a beginning and an _____. While worship is something that we do throughout our _____, it's an intermittent, heartfelt act wherein we put everything else aside and we focus our minds and our hearts for a time on God. Our lives are spent in momentary acts; and since worship is intentional we must _____ to spend our time in worship. We must make the moments that we worship our Father in heaven _____. God wants you to take the _____ to give Him your heart, and to glorify His name.

Have you considered how _____ God regards worship? Read Malachi 1:6-9. It is common these days for Christians to come to worship _____, sometimes dressed as if they didn't know they were coming into the _____ of God. Some people have the attitude: "Well, God ought to be _____ that I came; God ought to be satisfied that He got anything from me at all." Where is the _____? Where is the _____? How is God _____ in all of this? Some have little sense of _____ about coming into the presence of God. God _____ our best; and we should not give what's common or profane. God deserves to be _____ in our hearts and in appearance. In the tabernacle and the temple, how one appeared before God _____. How the high priest _____ mattered to God (Exodus 28:2). Consider Paul's _____ to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:9-10. When we _____ to worship, we are coming into the presence of God. What we do there is holy and reflects our _____.

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When the Israelites gathered for _____ at the temple, they didn't simply show up. They lived in a _____ of ceremonially clean and unclean. What we have today is _____ sense of that concept. Israelite pilgrims who traveled to a _____ in Jerusalem in ancient times first went to a ritual _____ to become ceremonially pure before they ever entered into the temple area (John 11:55). The purification rituals of Judaism stressed cleanliness and worthiness to _____ and worship the Lord (2 Chronicles 23:19).

Isaiah tells us of his _____ in the presence of God (Isaiah 6:1-8). Isaiah was _____ by his own sense of uncleanness before God. When the apostle John came into the presence of the Lord Jesus on the island of Patmos, he _____ at His feet as though he were _____. He understood the awesome and special _____ of the occasion. Many worship assemblies have become so worldly and so common that there is little sense of being in the presence of God or of the _____ of the occasion. In many worship occasions things reflect an environment of little _____ for God. (Things like putting a _____ on the floor, people putting their _____ up in a pew, people who are repeatedly and needlessly _____, constant going in and out to get a drink or go to the bathroom, constant _____ in the foyer, constant talking in the pews, texting on the _____, passing _____ in worship or clipping fingernails during the _____.)

We must think of our lives as we _____ God in worship and how we worship. When people cherish _____ more than they do God, it should not surprise them that God closes His ears to their prayers (Psalm 66:16-20). If we wish to worship God in private or in public, we need to serve God by living _____ lives every day (James 1:26-27). A man's songs and prayers are _____ on Sunday, the Lord's Day, if his mouth is vulgar the rest of the week. The apostle Paul was concerned about the _____ assemblies at Corinth that kept people from worshiping properly and from taking the Lord's Supper in a way that _____ God (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

We ought to please God in our worship for two _____. First, it honors God to worship as He _____. Second, true worship calls us to _____ a purer and nobler life. So let's _____ to praise and glorify God before we come into His presence. Let's get our hearts and our minds _____ on God. Israel worshiped in _____ by living immoral and ungodly lives (Isaiah 1:12-20). They needed to _____ of their sins before they came to worship God.

To get right with God one must _____ in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. He must regard Jesus as Lord and turn away from sin in _____. Anyone who loves the Lord will not _____ in willful sin. He wants to change his life and to _____ Jesus as the Christ. He'll also be _____ as quickly as possible for the forgiveness of sins as the Bible teaches (Acts 2:38). If a person loves the Lord, he won't want to spend a single moment _____ the love and grace of God.