



Lesson Nine

Proper Worship

The Roots of True Worship

As you draw closer to Yahweh God, you may begin to feel a sincere desire to worship Him. This is natural and shows that your love for God is genuine. His holy spirit moves those who truly love Him to become His worshippers.

Naturally, this leads to the question: *How should I worship God?* Around the world, many religions claim to teach the correct way to

worship. Yet not all forms of worship are acceptable to God. Jesus the Messiah clearly stated: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of the heavens, but only the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens." (Matthew 7:21). He went on to explain that even some who perform acts in God's name may not be accepted as true worshippers. (**Read: Matthew 7:21-23.**)

Discussion: Why do YOU think Yahweh God does not accept all forms of worship?

Yahweh Himself shows us how to worship Him properly. In His Word, He not only explains the right way to worship but also how to recognize those who do so faithfully. This helps us to associate with others who truly honor Him.

It all begins with the *bible*. As God's message to humankind, it alone contains the guidance we need for acceptable worship. Within its pages we find the roots of true devotion. In this lesson, we will consider what the Bible teaches about the right way to worship Yahweh God.

God tells us through the apostle Paul that "All scripture is breathed out by God and is beneficial for

teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). These words remind us that all of the bible was meant to help us become complete in righteousness. True worship, therefore, is firmly bible-based. It is not shaped by human tradition, culture, or personal preference. The apostle Paul also wrote: "...when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." (1 Thessalonians 2:13.) Because it comes from God, we can fully rely on the bible as the source of right worship.

This shows that pure worship is based on the entire bible, not just the New Testament. While some Christians today set aside ancient forms of

worship, true worshippers recognize that all of God's Word is inspired and beneficial. The apostle Paul did not write, "Worship only from the New Testament." In fact, during Paul's lifetime, the New Testament had not yet been compiled! The bible makes clear that *all* scripture is valuable, not only what was written during and after Jesus' time. The New Testament reflects the Old, and our modern worship should likewise reflect the faith and practices of those who came before us. We are not only permitted but encouraged to study the examples of ancient worship and to follow the patterns found there.

What did ancient worship look like? Under the Old Law, Yahweh established the foundation for true worship through many faithful practices. Foremost among

them was the command to worship Yahweh *alone*.

That principle remains unchanged today. True worshippers direct their devotion *exclusively* to Yahweh. Many people, however, offer worship to other spirit beings; some by elevating saints, others by praying to angels, and still others by giving worship to Jesus the Christ. Yet the Scriptures make clear that all worship belongs to Yahweh alone.

Jesus is the Messiah and holds a vital place in true worship, but is it proper to worship him? When Satan the Devil tested Jesus, he replied, "You shall worship [Yahweh] your God, and Him only shall you serve." (Matthew 4:10, ESV). Jesus' own words make the matter clear: worship is to be given only to God. This excludes

every other being, whether saints, angels, or any other spirit. True worship belongs *solely* to Yahweh.

Discussion: Is it okay for us to pray to the saints? Why or why not?

Another aspect of ancient worship was the observance of divine law. In Israel, the people were bound by the Law of Moses; today, we are guided by the Law of Christ. By keeping these commands, we honor God through obedience. Alongside the Mosaic Law, the Israelites also observed other divine instructions, including the Sabbath and the sacred Feast days. The apostles—whose example we seek to follow—continued to observe these occasions as well. In modern times, we reflect their faith by doing the same. In ancient days, the Feasts pointed forward to the first coming of

Jesus the Messiah. Today, these same observances remind us of his promised return, which we eagerly await.

Our modern worship also reflects ancient practices in its structure. In ancient Israel, the Levites were a class of priests set apart from the congregation to lead in worship. When the first assembly was formed after Jesus' ascension, this priesthood expanded in purpose. The apostles were set apart to guide the congregation into a new era of faith. Today, pastors and bishops continue this pattern, leading believers in pure worship. These ones are called by the spirit and gifted for service and leadership. In this way, modern worship makes use of spiritual gifts much as the ancient congregation relied on the service of the Levites. To

learn more about how the modern Assembly is organized, one should study the short book, "Built Upon the Rock".



In Ancient Israel, Levantine priests lead the congregation. Today, modern pastors lead the assembly

“By This They will Know You are my Disciples”



True worship cannot exist without obedience to **Jesus the Christ**. As the son of God, Jesus is the perfect reflection of his Father (Hebrews 1:3). He worshipped his Father faithfully, setting the pattern of pure worship for all who follow him. The bible declares that “there is no other name by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Through Jesus’ sacrifice we are freed from sin, and our worship must always reflect that truth.

Does this mean that we should worship Jesus himself? No. Worship is reserved only for God. Some modern Christians point to the apostle Paul’s words to suggest that even the angels

worship Jesus, and that we should do the same. They refer to Hebrews 1:6, which reads, “Let all God’s angels worship him” (Hebrews 1:6, ESV), indicating Jesus. Yet this translation is not entirely accurate.

The word translated “worship” in this verse is *προσκυνέω* (*proskyneō*), which literally means “to kiss as a token of reverence,” or “to bow in respect.” Jesus is the King of God’s Kingdom, and it is right that we obey, revere, and bow before him. Yet this is not the same as worship. To worship is to offer homage that belongs only to God. Jesus fully deserves our obedience and deep reverence, but Yahweh alone is worthy of our

worship.

Discussion: Does our reverence of Jesus mean that we should *worship* him?

Our modern worship should follow the pattern of Jesus' worship. How did Jesus worship God? He did so in many ways, but foremost through his preaching work. Jesus continually proclaimed his Father's goodness and worthiness. Everywhere he went, he spoke about God's promises and His coming Kingdom.

Today, we honor God in the same way – by bearing witness to His sovereignty through our conduct and speech. When we live in obedience to the Law of Christ, we become living examples of God's love. Each act of kindness and selfless devotion reflects His nature to others. Some may do this

through greater service, becoming ambassadors or teachers of God's Kingdom. Yet even the smallest acts of love and truth are forms of worship when they embody God's message in our daily lives.

Jesus also showed his faith in God through acts of service. When we volunteer to help others or care for the earth, we follow his example. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and welcomed all who sought truth into his fellowship. We, too, must do the same. Through selfless giving and compassionate service to those in need, we reflect the heart of God. In doing so, we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Before his ascension, Jesus taught that true worshippers would be identified by their love for one another (Read: John 13:35). Regardless of

background, appearance, or culture, we must make room in our hearts for all who serve God, welcoming them as spiritual brothers and sisters. Just as we care for our own family, we should treat our fellow believers with love, respect, and kindness. We show this love by rejecting violence in every form, including war, and by giving freely to those in need.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus remained politically neutral. When questioned about matters of government, he replied, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God" (Mark 12:17). In this, Jesus showed that while we must obey human authorities (Romans 13:1-6), our loyalty belongs to a higher rulership. True worshippers do not take part in human politics or promote worldly power.

Rulership belongs to God and to the one He has appointed: Jesus the Christ. Though we live in the world, we are no part of it (John 17:16).



Christians can remain politically neutral by refusing to pledge allegiance to one specific nation.

God's Kingdom is the only true solution to the world's problems. No human government can accomplish what God's Kingdom has done, or what it will soon do. Though Yahweh allows human rulership to continue for a time, the bible reveals that these governments will ultimately come to an end, leaving only God's everlasting Kingdom to

stand.

As we learned in Lesson Seven, Jesus serves as King of God's Kingdom. In this role, he acts as the mediator between God and mankind (**Read: 1 Timothy 2:5**). This means that Jesus holds a central place in our worship of Yahweh. When we pray, we do so in Jesus' name. When we are baptized, we are symbolically cleansed by his blood through the covenant of his sacrifice. And during the Memorial each year, we partake of the body and blood of the Christ through the unleavened bread and wine, remembering the price he paid for our redemption.

Pure worship is modeled after, and guided by Jesus' role as redeemer and mediator.

In Spirit and in Truth



One day during his travels, Jesus stopped at a well and asked a woman from Samaria to draw him some water. The woman, surprised, questioned why he – a Jew – would even speak to her, since Jews and Samaritans seldom interacted. Yet she offered him water and listened as he spoke.

Jesus' reply to the Samaritan woman became one of his most profound teachings. He revealed not only who he was but also that the good news of salvation would soon reach all people. He said, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who

worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24).

To this day, Christians are called to worship God in this manner. How can we be sure, though, that our worship is both spiritual and truthful?

Worship God in Spirit

Since God is a spirit, we are told to worship Him in spirit. True worship is more than the gathering of believers; it is the active presence of God's own spirit among them. For a congregation to offer true worship, it must be guided and sustained by *the holy spirit*.

When we are baptized into the truth, God grants us the gift of holy spirit (Acts 2:38). But what is the holy spirit?

Many Christians claim that it is God Himself—the third person of a “Trinity.” Yet we are told that true worship must be “in spirit and in truth.” To worship in truth, we must seek the answer from the only true source of knowledge: God’s Word.

According to the bible, the holy spirit is God’s spirit, or Yahweh’s active force (Micah 3:8). Rather than a person, the holy spirit is the very power and presence of God at work. It is not a separate being but an extension of God Himself, through which His will is accomplished. Scripture describes the holy spirit as God’s “fingers” or “hands” – instruments He uses to carry out His purpose (**Read: Psalm 8:3**).

Discussion: What is the holy spirit, according to the bible?

When we are baptized in the water of truth, Yahweh grants us a measure of His own holy spirit. Through this gift, we are strengthened to obey His commands and to proclaim His truth. When a pastor or minister is anointed with holy oil, they receive a special portion of this spirit, empowering them to teach the assembly and to share God’s living truth with clarity and conviction.



When a pastor is anointed with holy oil, he is granted the gift of discernment of scriptures.

Spirit-driven worship comes from the heart. It flows from the inner person and is motivated by genuine love and gratitude toward God. It

is not mechanical or ritualistic but filled with deep devotion and zeal. True worship involves a personal, heartfelt connection with Yahweh – not merely going through the motions. Even those within the congregation who are not yet baptized or anointed can feel this sincere passion for God, making their worship genuine and pure in His sight.

Worship God in Truth

As the God of truth, Yahweh calls us to worship Him in truth. This requires that we dedicate ourselves to both learning what is true and recognizing what is false. It also means exercising discernment – trusting those who teach with wisdom and humility, while verifying their words by the standard of God's Word.

True worship must be firmly based on the bible. Many

modern churches, however, are built on tradition rather than truth. They repeat the teachings of their ancestors without examining whether those teachings align with Scripture. Some even twist the words of the bible to support inherited ideas! Others focus on popularity instead of purity, preaching whatever message will draw the largest crowds, or the most donations. But such worship is not rooted in spirit and truth, and therefore cannot be pleasing to God.

Neither of these methods is the way of Yahweh. To worship in truth, we must teach only what the bible confirms as truth. For example, many churches claim that once a person has "given their heart to Jesus," they are forever guaranteed a place in heaven. The phrase "once saved, always saved" echoes in countless

congregations each Sunday and around dinner tables during the holidays.

This teaching, however, is not rooted in truth. Nowhere does the bible say that simply proclaiming faith in Jesus' sacrifice guarantees salvation. In fact, it teaches the very opposite! The apostle Paul wrote that he disciplined his body and mind, striving to remain faithful so that he would not lose his reward or lead others astray (**Read: 1 Corinthians 9:27**). This scripture, and many others, proves that we must continually seek God's truth to attain salvation in the end.

Discussion: Why is it important that we verify what the pastors are teaching is truth?

True worship is rooted in Scripture. It is grounded in the truth of God's Word and revealed through His very nature. Our worship must be shaped by reality – by who God is and what He has done, as revealed in the bible – not by what merely feels right to us. Such worship requires knowledge: a sound understanding of God's teachings and the commands He has given.

Prayer - The Key to Proper Worship



Much of this lesson has been dedicated to how the bible guides true worship. Yet if we understand a relationship with God as having two-way communication, then it makes sense that *prayer* – our communication with God – plays a pivotal role in proper worship.

Discussion: Why is prayer an important aspect of proper worship?

Up to this point, we have used prayer as a tool in our bible study. You have already learned what prayer is, what it accomplishes, and how it works. Yet one important question remains: how should we pray?

Different denominations have developed various methods.

Catholics often use the Rosary or make the sign of the cross. Orthodox Christians follow structured routines of repeated prayers, usually in a dedicated space adorned with icons. Modern denominations, by contrast, may simply bow their heads and speak freely, without a set form or gesture.

Throughout Scripture, prayers take many different forms, making it difficult to identify a single “right” way to pray. Yet prayer remains an essential part of true worship. We must be sure to approach it in a bible-based way—one that connects us personally to God through sincere speech from the heart. Let us consider some common questions about prayer and explore their

answers as revealed in the bible.

What Position Should I Pray In?

The bible records many different positions in which people prayed, each fitting its own context. In formal settings—such as holy days and sabbath worship—believers often knelt or prostrated themselves before God. During these occasions, the head of the congregation would stand before the people and offer prayer, sometimes with arms lifted or a staff raised, while the congregation knelt together in reverence.

At home or in private, prayer took on a more personal form. Individuals might sit, stand, kneel, or even lie down as they spoke with God. No single posture was considered holier than another. In keeping with this biblical example, we at

NCMA typically have the pastor offer prayer during worship services before the congregation. Those in attendance may bow their heads or kneel if they are able. Outside the worship setting, each believer may choose whatever posture helps them draw closest to God in prayer.

What Should I Wear?

When it comes to prayer, what we wear often depends on where we are. The bible instructs us to dress modestly (**Read: 1 Peter 3:3-4**). At home, this may simply mean being neat and respectful, even in casual clothing. In public or during worship, however, we should present ourselves with dignity and care.

Under the Old Covenant, priests prayed while wearing special garments, but Yahweh gave no such

command for the New Covenant. When Moses stood before Yahweh, he was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground (Exodus 3:5). Today, Yahweh does not appear to us physically, but by His spirit. Thus, removing our shoes during prayer may serve as a symbolic act of reverence and submission before Him.

The bible also says that we are to dress in accordance with our gender (Deuteronomy 22:5). Women should wear clothing appropriate to women, such as dresses, skirts, or modest pants, while men should wear traditional garments suited for men. Ultimately, what we wear should be modest and clean – that is what matters most. Being clean and well-groomed is part of honoring God in both body and spirit. When we present ourselves

with care, we show respect for the life and form that Yahweh has given us. By dressing with modesty and distinction, believers reflect the dignity and order of God's creation. Our appearance, therefore, should quietly testify to our reverence, humility, and devotion to Him.

How Often Should I Pray?

The bible instructs us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Just as a friendship depends on regular communication, our relationship with God grows through continual prayer and study of His Word. Believers are encouraged to pray on a regular schedule – daily, if possible (Ephesians 6:18). Many find it helpful to pray upon waking and before sleep, while others also offer thanks before or after meals (Deuteronomy 8:10).

Whatever the routine, pure

worship is marked by frequent, heartfelt communication with Yahweh through prayer.

What Should I Pray About?

We can bring anything before our Creator in prayer. Yahweh assures us that whatever we ask in faith, He hears us (Read: 1 John 5:14). When we pray for the right things in the right way, Jesus promises that our prayers will be answered (John 15:7).

But what does it mean to pray in the *right* way? Jesus taught us to direct our prayers to the Father, Yahweh, and to do so in his name. Why? Because when Jesus acts on our behalf, it brings glory to Yahweh, the One who sent him (John 14:13).

Discussion: What does it mean to pray in the 'right' way?

What can we pray for? The bible gives many examples. We can pray for spiritual qualities such as faith and wisdom (Luke 17:5; James 1:5). We may call upon God for spiritual protection (Mark 9:29) or comfort in times of trial. Scripture encourages us to "throw all your anxieties on Yahweh" (1 Peter 5:7), trusting that He cares for us. Yahweh also desires that our prayers extend beyond ourselves – to our families, our communities, and even our enemies (Matthew 5:44). In doing so, we reflect His mercy and love toward all creation.

Perhaps most important in our prayers are the spiritual treasures we seek. We are instructed to ask for the forgiveness of our sins (1 John 1:9). Yahweh desires that we recognize our faults and sincerely repent. Our prayers are also a means of

praising His holy name (Matthew 6:9). When we exalt the Name of Yahweh, we show our love, reverence, and gratitude toward Him.

Careful study of the bible reveals that there is almost nothing we cannot bring before Yahweh in prayer.



There is nothing we can't pray to Yahweh about.

When we purify and strengthen our worship, we give a powerful witness to the world about our Creator. Through our genuine love and gratitude for His provisions, Satan is shown to be a liar. Soon, Yahweh's Kingdom will cleanse the earth of sin and establish paradise for all who choose to enter it. Now is the time to make that choice: to uphold clean and faithful worship in the Name of Yahweh.