

# ***Worship***

Introduction: Worshipping God always begins in the heart of the person. An individual does not worship because he/she is physically in the place where worship occurs. If he/she does not seek to involve himself or herself in honoring God, he or she is not worshipping. More than physical presence is required.

## **I. Worship Illustrated**

- A. Look at the spiritual situation in Isaiah 1:1-20.
- B. What did their worship look like?
  1. Their worship stands as a symbol of their entire spiritual problem.
  2. What was wrong with their worship?
    - a) Technically, nothing was wrong with it.
    - b) It is quite clear that God was insulted by their worship.
  3. For their worship to cease being an insult to God, two things had to happen.

## **II. What was it in their worship that offended God so much?**

- A. Were they not doing precisely what God commanded them to do?
- B. Scripturally, they were doing a lot of the right things. (cf. Lev. 1-6; 16:12, 13; Exod. 30:1-10; 2 Chron. 26:19; Num. 28:9-15; 1 Chron. 23:30, 31; Deut. 16:16)
- C. What was the problem?
  1. The reasoning: "If we do the right things, acceptable worship occurs."
  2. The end result is distressful.
  3. If you go to church, it is assumed that you worshipped.
  4. If you go to church, it is assumed that you believe.
- D. Worship occurs when hearts gratefully glorify God.

## **III. A New Testament example that speaks to the heart of worship**

- A. Read with me Luke 18:9-14.
  1. Look at "the big picture" instead of the details.
  2. What was the primary difference? Hearts!
- B. Because of hearts:
  1. The recognized religious man was not heard, so he did not worship.
  2. The sinner was forgiven (justified)--he worshipped.

Conclusion: If anyone should understand the importance of hearts to worship, we should! Worship occurs only when the heart of the worshipper glorifies God. If our hearts are not correctly involved, there is no worship.