



# Online Bible Study Course

*Presented by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana*

## Lesson 4: The Worship of the Church

The modern philosophy in worship is that a person can worship God any way that he wants. Legally one can, but to please God and be acceptable unto Him, our worship must be on God's terms, as Christ has directed. Not even the church has the right to choose its methods of worship, but must worship as the gospel teaches. Our worship must be unto God only (Matthew 4:10). The Old Testament is full of examples where worship was misdirected or wrongly offered. In Exodus 20:3, God said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me..." This lesson is designed to teach us how to properly worship God today.

### Worship: True or Vain

**Vain worship.** "But in \_\_\_\_\_ they do \_\_\_\_\_ me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). These people were worshipping God, but it was vain, or to no avail, because it was not as God directed. Read the story of Nadab and Abihu from Leviticus 10:1-2. They died because they offered strange fire in their sacrifice (worship) which God had \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_. They may have thought they could worship God with any fire, or maybe the strange fire was better, for after all God had not said they could not use it. But, God would not accept it, for He had not authorized its use. This same principle is taught in 2 John 9-11 and in Colossians 3:17. Our worship must be by Jesus' authority. To go beyond is to not have God.

**True worship.** "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_" (John 4:24). To worship in spirit is to worship from the heart. It involves understanding, meaning, and feeling. This is the attitude of acceptable worship (Matthew 15:8). To worship in truth is to worship by the teachings of the truth, the word of God (John 17:17). This is the standard for acceptable worship.

### Items of Worship

To fully worship God, we must assemble with the church. "Not forsaking the \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..." (Hebrews 10:25). Here are the methods of worship we are to use:

**Teaching.** "... \_\_\_\_\_ them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:20). Who are the ones to be taught in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_ "...It is written in the

prophets, And they shall be all \_\_\_\_\_ of God” (John 6:45). The early Christians “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ \_\_\_\_\_...” (Acts 2:42). Doctrine is teaching. This is why Bible classes are offered and sermons are preached. We see a good example of the church meeting for worship and Paul preaching unto them in Acts 20:7.

**Prayer.** “\_\_\_\_\_ always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...” (Ephesians 6:18). “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 2:42). “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but \_\_\_\_\_ was made without ceasing of the \_\_\_\_\_ unto God for him” (Acts 12:5).

**Singing.** There are two kinds of music: vocal and mechanical. Read these passages to see which one is authorized by Christ. “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual songs, \_\_\_\_\_ and making \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19). “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual songs \_\_\_\_\_ with grace in your \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16). Other Scriptures: Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Hebrews 2:12; 13:15; James 5:13. From these Scriptures it is easy to see that the only kind of music Christ has directed us to use is vocal. That’s the only kind the New Testament churches used, and it is the only kind that we should use. Notice also that we are to all sing to each other, and not have a choir to sing to or for us.

**The Lord’s supper.** “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship and in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). Please read Acts 20:7 and then fill in the following: What did the Christians assemble for at Troas? \_\_\_\_\_  
When God told Israel to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8), how often did He expect them to keep the Sabbath day holy? Was it every Sabbath day or any Sabbath day they chose? \_\_\_\_\_  
In the same connection, when the disciples at Troas came together on the first day of the week to break bread, how often did they take the Lord’s supper? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Can you imagine a church meeting on the first day of the week and then leaving out the memorial of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ The communion is to be taken every week. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-30 and fill in the following: List the two elements of the Lord’s supper: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What is the purpose of the Lord’s supper? \_\_\_\_\_

**Giving.** “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you \_\_\_\_\_ in store, as God hath \_\_\_\_\_ him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2). “Every man according as he \_\_\_\_\_

in his heart, so let him \_\_\_\_\_; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a \_\_\_\_\_ giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). In the Old Testament, the Jews were required to tithe, or give a tenth to the Lord. But from these passages, has God bound any certain amount on us today? \_\_\_\_\_ This is the only way that a church can raise money. There is no authorization for pie suppers, door to door soliciting, bingo parties, dinners, or going into business to raise money. Notice also that the day for the contribution is the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 16:2).

We have learned that worship must be on God’s terms to be acceptable. Also, we have learned what those terms are, as revealed in the New Testament. Just because something pleases us, and we want to worship God that way, is no sign that it is pleasing to God. Let us be content to worship only in these ways and to leave out everything else.

Worship is not entertainment. There are no special holy days mentioned in the Bible for special worship services for us today (like Christmas, Easter, etc.). Every Sunday is alike in our worship unto God.

We cordially invite you to come and attend our worship services!

We thank you for using this series of Bible study lessons. We hope it has assisted you in your search for truth. Now that you have learned the truth, we encourage you to be obedient unto God’s word. Remember the words of Jesus:

**“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;  
but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).**

*Write Any Questions or Comments You May Have Here*

*Would You Like for Someone from the Church to Make a Visit?*

Yes

No