

WORSHIP

I see who God is and respond appropriately.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible has a lot to say about worship. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach us valuable lessons about what worship is. One of the best summaries of those teachings is found in the twelfth chapter of Romans. The chapter begins with this verse: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship." Worship is more than singing hymns and songs in a church. It is meant to be a response with our entire life.

Romans 12:1 helps us to understand the heartbeat behind the prophet's words in Amos 5. In this chapter God says some pretty harsh statements. In verse 21, he says, "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me." In verse 23, "Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps." These are hard words to read. What is going on?

Well, the people of Israel were engaging in empty worship. They said the right words, offered the proper sacrifices and gathered together for the correct religious festivals. But their hearts and their lives did not match their words. God abhors empty worship. He desires TOTAL worship from us. A worship that is expressed is a response of our very lives.

WHAT'S OUR PART?

TRUST - when we see God for who he really is, we must first respond with trust. We trust what his word says about him. We trust that he is who he says he is. We trust that He has done and will do all that he has promised. We trust in His Son, Jesus, as our Savior and King.

OBEY- Responding to God has to include obedience. Our obedience is evidence of our devotion to him. This obedience doesn't simply involve NOT doing things that God has commanded us to not do. But it also involves obeying the things he did command us to do. So caring for the poor, living justly, forgiving our enemies and so many other things God told us to do, are all part of our worship.

THANKSGIVING - Gratitude is something we do as an appropriate response to who God is. We are thankful for what he has done for us AND we are thankful for who he is. We thank God for being a loving God, a gracious God, a mighty and steadfast God. We thank God for being God.

ADORATION - Praise and adulation are vital parts of worship. There is a reason that we sing extolling words to God. He is worthy of our praise! If we see God for who he is, our natural response is to cry out - *Holy! Holy! Holy is the Lord!*

LOVE - The chapter in Romans that we referenced earlier goes out of its way to list descriptions and commands for radical, sincere love. Love is the very heartbeat of our worship. We worship God as a response to his love, and as a declaration of our love for Him.



PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

PRAY

- Pray that God reveals himself to you in new and wonderful ways. Pray that your heart will respond appropriately.

LOOK

- Jump into God's word and see what it has to say about God's attributes. Make a list of at least 10 that you find.

RESPOND

- Pick one of the areas of T.O.T.A.L. worship and lean into that are this week. If it is thanksgiving, perhaps make for yourself a gratitude list. If it is obedience, perhaps look for a way to help meet the needs of someone else. Pick an area, lean into it this week, and live out a tangible response!

