



The Year of H.O.P.E.

HEALING. OUTREACH. PRAISE & WORSHIP. EMPOWERMENT

“Understanding Worship”

Introduction:

What is worship?

Worship is "honor paid to a superior being." It means "to give homage, honor, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to a superior being." In Scripture, the word is used indiscriminately to refer to the homage given to idols, material things, or to the true God. Not ALL worship is pure worship.

The common New Testament word for worship is *proskuneo*, which means "to kiss toward, to kiss the hand, to bow down, to prostrate oneself." The idea of worship is that one prostrates himself before a superior being with a sense of respect, awe, reverence, honor, and homage.

In a Christian context, we simply apply this to God and prostrate ourselves before Him in respect and honor, paying Him the glory due His superior character.

I. The **Person** Whom We Worship

- A. **Jesus** tells us who we are to **worship**. *Matt. 4:10*
- B. **Idolatry** doesn't consist only in adoring visible **objects**.
- C. To think **wrongly** about God is to have everything **wrong**.
- D. To see who the Lord is brings us to **confession**.

“The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him.”

A.W. Tozer

II. The **Priority** of Worship

- A. In response to the Lord, **worship** must be a priority in our **lives**.
- B. We must love God with our **heart, soul, mind, and strength**.
- C. The divine priority is **worship** first and **service** second.
- D. Worship is **ministering** to God. *Ezekiel 44:15*
- E. Worship is us giving our **hearts** back to God.

III. The **Preparation** for Worship

- A. We should have a holy **expectancy** regarding worship
- B. When there is holy expectancy, it can change the **atmosphere** in the **room**.

THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON

IV. The Primary Leader of Worship

- A. Christ is alive and present among His people.
- B. His voice can be heard in our hearts and His presence can be known.
- C. There should be no room for the elevation of private reputations.

V. The Paths into Worship

- A. Still all humanly initiated activity.
- B. Praise is another avenue into worship.
- C. Emotions need to be brought into the act of worship.
- D. The real question in worship is not, “What will meet my needs?” but “What kind of worship does God call for?” *Hebrews 13:15; I Peter 2:5; 9; Acts 5:41*