

How Does God Determine Worship (Con't From Page 1)

Latreuo is defined simply “to serve, to rend religious service” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*, p. 686), in “the carrying out of religious duties” (*BDAG*, p. 587). Sustained daily and hourly service to the Lord (as He defines “service”) is what He commands and expects; sustained daily and hourly worship to the Lord (as He defines “worship”) is impossible.

Some translations of Romans 12:1 have contributed to confusing the issue. The ASV renders the text: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual service** (*latreuo*).” Some modern versions have translated it, “...which is your spiritual worship,” making it sound as if the offering of one’s body as a living sacrifice is a matter of daily *proskuneo worship*, rather than daily *latreuo service*. As the context of Romans 12 demands (yea, even the context of the entirety of Scripture), **serving God** is a 24/7 responsibility of every Christian! Whereas, **worshipping God** (by following His designated pattern, through His designated avenues, at His designated times, etc.) is an act that has a very definite starting point and very definite stopping point. All of worship may be designated as service, but not all of service can be designated as worship.

May God help us to **worship Him** and to **serve Him** as He has prescribed in His Word, and to never confuse or seek to interchange one for the other! ~David Sproule

Paul’s Warning

Brother’s my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Romans 10:1-4)

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting Times::

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
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Bill Gregory (360)710-0449
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Bill Gregory’s office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)



How Does God Determine Worship?

The most common word for worship in the Greek New Testament is “*proskuneo*,” which literally means “to kiss” (*kuneo*) “toward” (*pros*). The word is defined, “fall down and worship, do obeisance to, prostrate oneself before, do reverence to” (*BDAG Greek Lexicon* [2000], p. 882). The definition and New Testament usage of this word clearly indicates an act – an act of homage and reverence.

After the birth of the Christ on earth, “wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and **have come to worship Him**’” (Matt. 2:1-2). Notice the understanding and emphasis of this word – worship was something that they had traveled some distance to do in a specific place (and in a specific manner), and it was not something they were already doing or always doing.

This usage is reminiscent of Abraham’s words in Genesis 22. “Abraham rose early in the morning” (he was not worshipping yet), “and he split the wood for the burnt offering” (he was not worshipping yet, but he was making preparations), “and arose and went to the place of which God had told him” (he was not worshipping yet, but he was going to the place where God told him to worship), “and Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you’” (22:1-5). Abraham affirmed (by word and action) that he was not yet worshipping, until he would come to the right time and place and with the right preparations. “Worship” was something that would begin (in a designated location) and would also end (before leaving the designated location). (This can also be seen in other passages, such as Exodus 4:31; Judges 7:15; 1 Samuel 1:3, 19; 2 Samuel 12:20; Acts 8:27-28; 24:11; etc.) Scripture presents worship as a definite act of reverence paid to God through specific acts done in a specific location at a specific time. Worship is never presented in Scripture as something that is done continuously, 24/7.

Nevertheless, there is a word (somewhat related to, yet completely distinct from worship) which requires our constant, daily, hour-by-hour devotion – **service**. Jesus emphasized both worship and service, and yet distinguished the two concepts, in Matthew 4:10. “You shall worship (*proskuneo*) the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve (*latreuo*).” Jesus was not being redundant; there is a distinction. The same distinction between worship and service is made elsewhere, including by Paul who “went up to Jerusalem to worship (*proskuneo*)” no more than 12 days earlier in Acts 24:11, but he was “earnestly serving (*latreuo*) God night and day” (Acts 26:7).

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Keep These Dates in Mind

Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.

Sandy Gray has volunteered to put out an informational email during the week to update the church of immediate prayer needs or information that needs to be disseminated before/in-between our scheduled meeting times. If you wish to be on this list, please contact her and give her your email information.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mike Manning 5/1
Lynette Jones 5/4
Gerald Funnell 5/5
Bill Lafferty 5/8
Tom Gritzan 5/17
Katie Botts 5/18
Mary Hill 5/21
Kurtis Rau 5/26

Bible Studies**Adult Bible Classes**

Sunday a - Judges
Sunday p - Romans
Wed p - John

Youth Classes

Classroom Wing
Teen Class -
Teen Room

Ladies Class

Thursday 10:00 a

Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston



In Our Prayers

Larry Marquez, Wanda Danley and Marji Lindholm's brother was baptized into Christ this week. The family is rejoicing even though he is ill, and that illness is expected to end his life soon.

Judy Ward issue mentioned previously is being handled with medication and she is scheduled to see her cardiologist to discuss further options.

We are planning a **Bible Seminar May 5-9** at our building. There will be a meeting a 5:00p tonight to discuss what needs to be done in support of this seminar. If there are other issues to be discussed come prepared to discuss them as well.

It was wonderful to see so many of our members who have been struggling with health issues at worship last Sunday. It is truly a blessing to be able to come and worship with our friends and fellow Christians and to see faces that have been missed for so long.

Our Ministries**Mountain States Children's Home**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry - Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Preparing My Heart to Seek the Lord

"...Now Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord" (2 Chronicles 12:13-14).

Rehoboam had become king following the death of King Solomon. His kingdom was immediately divided as 10 of the 12 tribes over which his father had ruled refused to submit to his reign as he rejected the wise advice of the elders and heeded the foolish advice of those his peers concerning how he should react to some distresses the people had asked him to take into consideration (2 Chronicles 10:1-19). As the opening verses above indicate, Rehoboam's failure as a leader happened because he had failed to "prepare his heart to seek the Lord" (2 Chronicles 12:13-14).

Instead of being proactive and "preparing his heart to seek the Lord", we see Rehoboam having to "react" to different predicaments he faced. First, following the division of the kingdom, Rehoboam attempts to send his tax collector to the northern kingdom of Israel to collect taxes from the rebellious tribes which leads to the death of his revenue man (2 Chronicles 10:18-19). Next, Rehoboam tries to unite his kingdom by force by going out to war against the northern kingdom of Israel. God sends his prophet Shemiah to rebuke Rehoboam for attempting to do this and Rehoboam backs down (2 Chronicles 11:1-4). After God blesses Rehoboam by having all the Levites from the northern kingdom and all those from the tribes of Israel who sought after God come and join Rehoboam and strengthen his kingdom (2 Chronicles 11:13-17), Rehoboam again finds himself in trouble as he forsakes God's law. As a result of this, God sends Shishak, king of Egypt, to threaten Jerusalem because "they had transgressed against the Lord" (2 Chronicles 12:1-2).

Following God's sending Shemiah the prophet once again to rebuke Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah for forsaking God, we read, "So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, 'The Lord is righteous'. Now when the Lord saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the Lord came to Shemiah, saying, 'They have humbled themselves; therefore, I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance. My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. Nevertheless, they will be his servants, that they may distinguish My service from the service of the kingdoms of the nations'" (2 Chronicles 12:6-8).

It is interesting that God only granted Rehoboam "some deliverance" from the troubles he faced (2 Chronicles 12:7). Although Jerusalem would not be destroyed by the king of Egypt, Rehoboam and Judah would still have to serve Shishak, the king of Egypt in order, as God said, "they may distinguish My service from the service of the kingdoms of the nations" (2 Chronicles 12:8).

Why did God do all of this? I believe it goes back to the fact that Rehoboam failed to "prepare his heart to seek after God" (2 Chronicles 12:14). Because Rehoboam failed to do this, God would have to use chastisement as a way to teach Rehoboam to the importance of submitting to Lord (cf. Proverbs 3:11-12). Rehoboam would have to learn "the hard way" about the importance of seeking after God.

~ Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ