

# Worship God the Father

John 4:20-24

# Jesus and the Samaritan woman

- Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> **God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.**”

John 4: 20-24



Background: (1-9)

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John...<sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria.... <sup>5</sup> came to a town in Samaria called Sychar....

<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon

- <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup> His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.
- <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”



# Samaritans



- Mixed Jews – intermarriage between Israelites and foreigners settled by Assyrians in Israel ( 575BC -556BC)
- Rival temple worship



# Samaritan woman

- Mixed Jews
- Samaritan woman.



- Jesus went against the racial/gender bias by speaking to the Samaritan woman

# Dispute (4:20,22)

- <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”
- This mountain...Mt Grisim

<sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

- 3 annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16)

# Jesus: Radical view of worship

- 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.'(4:21)
- true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."  
(4:23-24)

- Physical location and rituals are no longer central to worship.

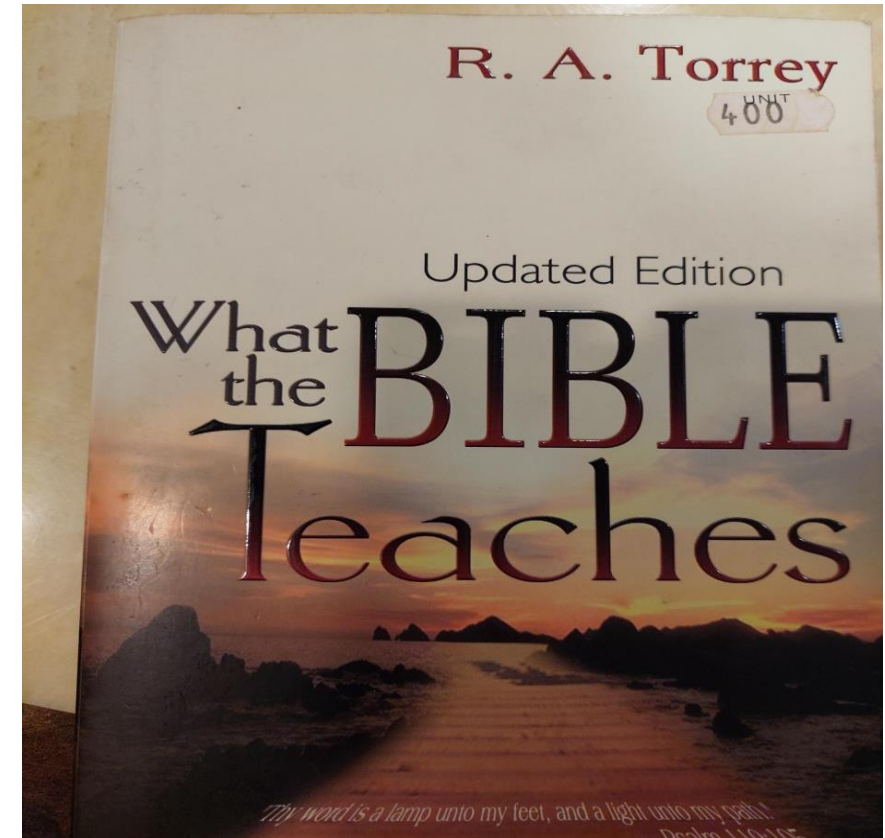


# True worship

- In the Spirit
- In Truth
- Not the physical aspects of worship ( means)
- Jesus introduced a new way to worship the Father.
- Opened to everyone, not only Jews
- The kind of worship the Father seeks

# What is worship?

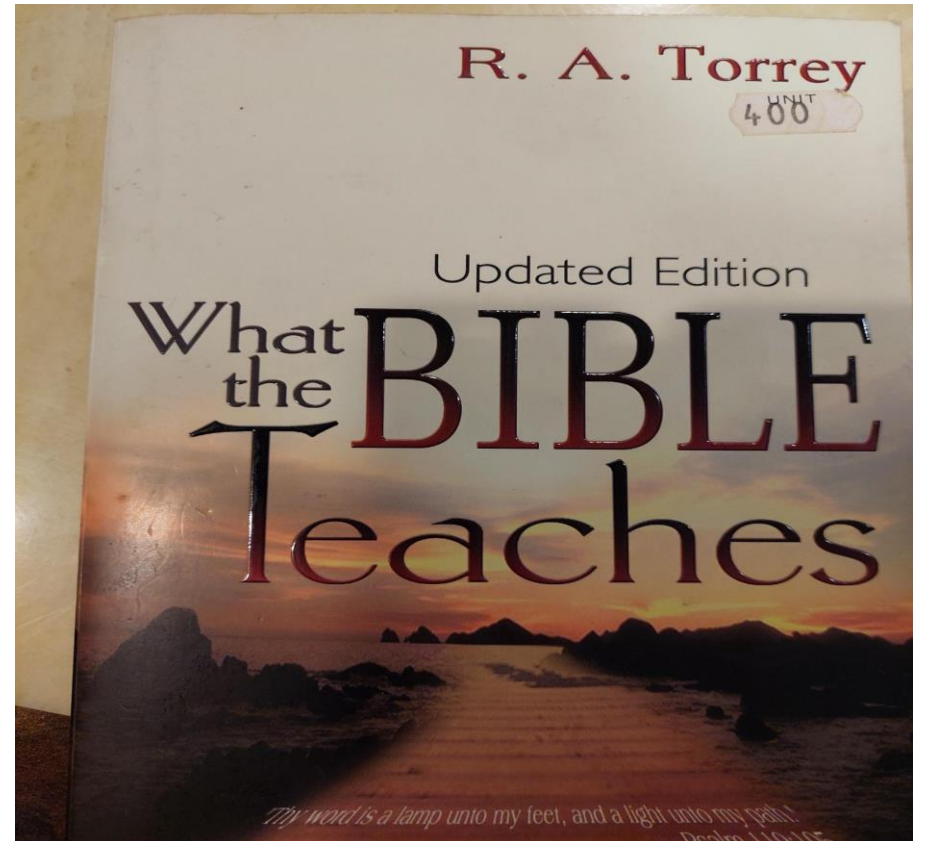
- Def: Is the soul bowing itself in adoring contemplation of God.
- Hebrew (root) : to bow down
- Soul .... condition of the inner being or heart, not physical.
- Bowing.. heart posture, not body
- Focus on God



# What is worship?

OT references:

- worshipped God in response to an encounter with Him
- Exodus 4:30-31; Exodus 34:5-8; Nehemiah 8:6 ;2 Chronicles 7:3



# Response

## God's concern and care:

- and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed.
- And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped. ( Exo 4:30-31)

## Moses meeting God:

- Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses .....Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.( Exo 34:5-8)

# Response

## The glory of the LORD:

- When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD (2 CHRONICLES 7:3)

## The Law being read:

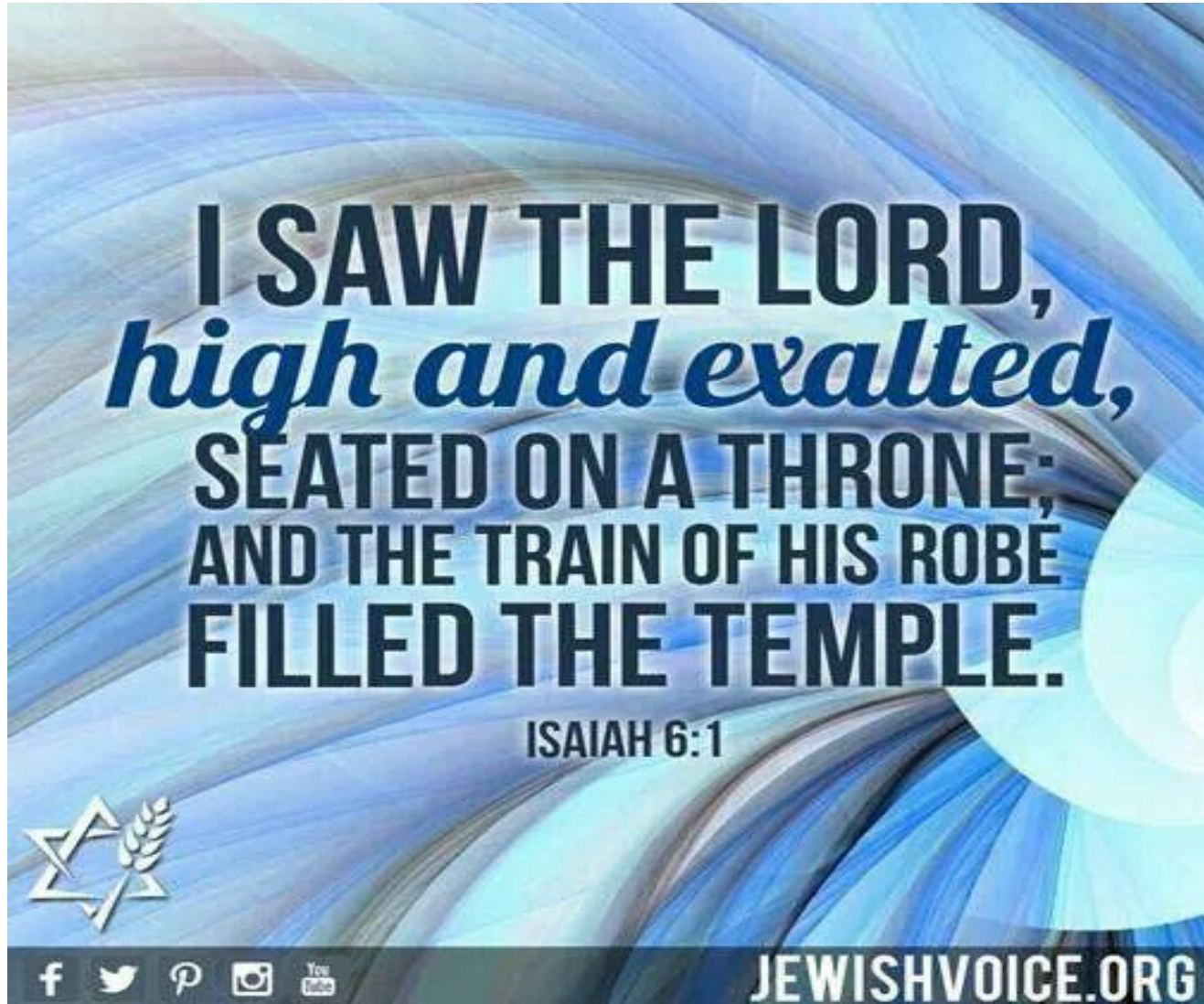
- Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.(Nehemiah 8:6)

# Worship

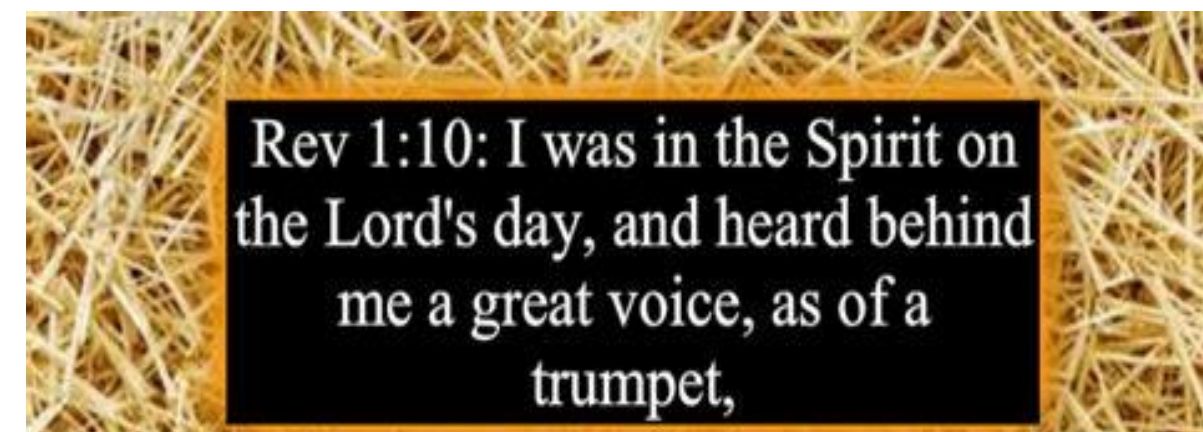
- Bowed down posture...
- Response to:
  - Meeting God
  - Seeing God's glory
  - God's goodness to His people.  
(concern and care)
  - His Word...read



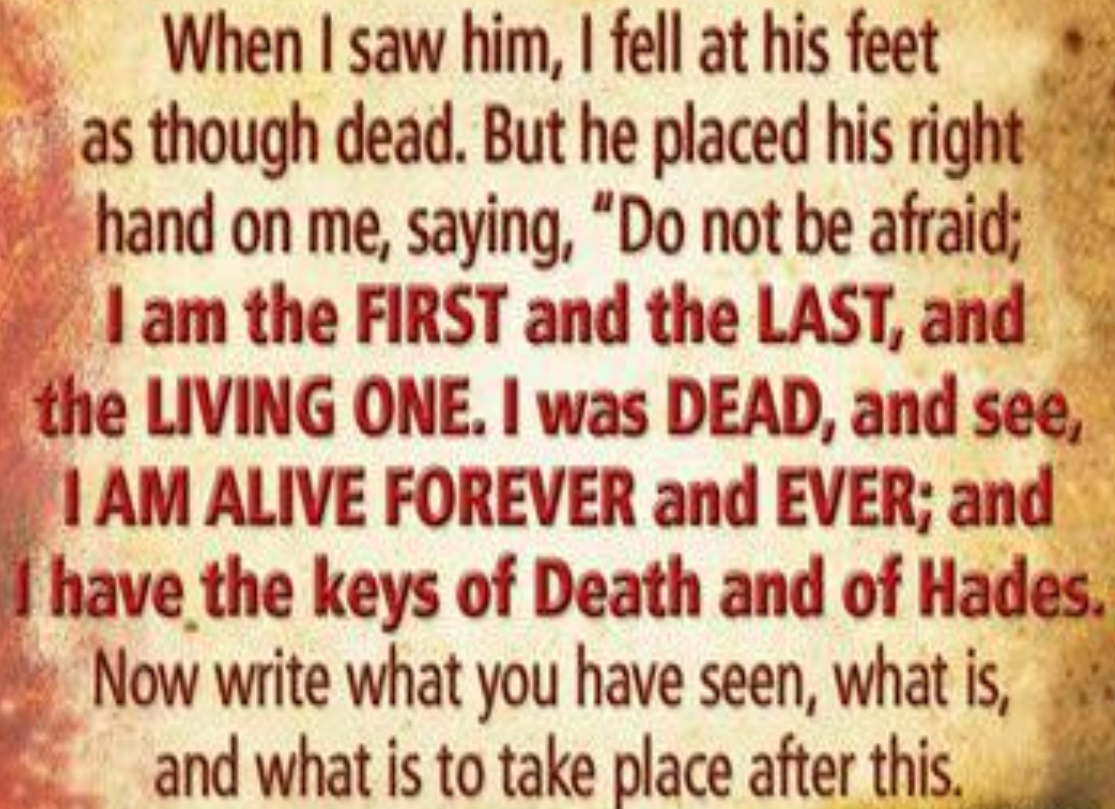
# Convicted of sins



Woe to me...I am ruined  
...For I am of unclean lips  
(6:5)



Rev 1:10: I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,



When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; **I am the FIRST and the LAST, and the LIVING ONE. I was DEAD, and see, I AM ALIVE FOREVER and EVER; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.** Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this.

Revelation 1:17-19

Fell at His feet  
as though dead

Humility/helplessness  
before the Lord



# Soul bowing...

- **Worship is of the heart, not physical.**
- response to an encounter with God
- pre-occupation with God Himself

Lead to:

- Conviction of sin
- Overwhelmed by humility/  
helplessness



# Old Testament worship

- **Leviticus** : Regulations for temple worship:  
Temple layout / furnishing, festivals /sacrifices.
- God instructed regulations – enabled to worship.

- God rejected their sacrifices/ worship because of sin:

Isaiah 1:11-17; Hoshea 6:6;

Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:6-8

# Isaiah 1:11-15

- Rejected their sacrifices and incense offerings.  
( God's instruction for worship)
- Rejected their prayers
- **Worship was rejected because they continued to sin.**
- **Wash and make yourselves clean.** Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.<sup>17</sup> Learn to do right; seek justice.

# Worship God desires

- For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. ( Hos 6:6)
- The LORD require...act justly...love mercy and walk humbly before the LORD ( Micah 6:8)
- But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never –failing stream ( Amos 5:24)
- Acknowledge God’s Holiness and majesty.
- Humble before Him.
- Show justice, love and mercy.



- Acknowledge God's Holiness and Majesty.
  - Stop sinning
  - Humble before Him
  - Show justice, love and mercy.
- Rituals for sacrifices in Leviticus were not worship itself but a means to enable worship.
  - Correct heart of worship accompanied by correct living.

# We are God's temple

- Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be My people. ( 2 Corinthians 6:16)

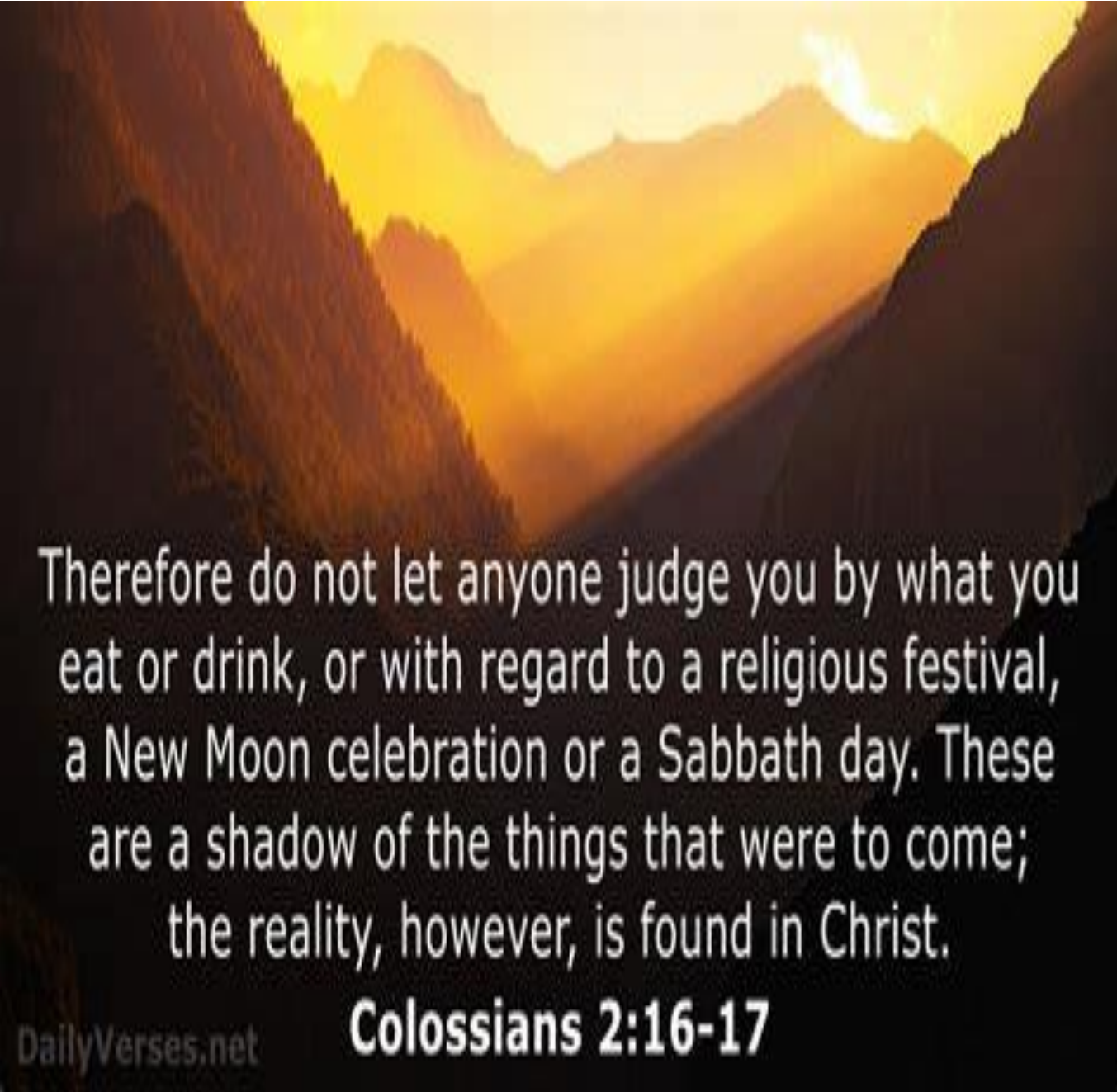
Our body ....temple of God by the indwelling Spirit.  
Worship...both individual and corporate as church.

# Holy Communion

- <sup>27</sup> So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup> For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. (1 Corinthians 11)
- Sin is a serious matter to God.
- Need examination of heart as preparation...
- Confession and forgiveness needed

# Church service

- Singing / reading the bible and meditation /offerings / prayer/ sermon/ Holy Communion may lead to worship but in itself is not worship ( RA Torey).
  - Wrongful participation ....not pleasing to God
- Examine ourselves when
    - we enter God's house
      - for worship



Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

**Colossians 2:16-17**

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- Rituals, celebrations and Sabbath.... Shadow of the things to come.
  - **Christ is the focus** of worship, not the rituals.
- Danger:
- ritual centered worship service which God rejects.

# Worship God in *Spirit & Truth*





# Truth : basis of worship

- The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son... (John 1:14)
  - How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Hebrews 7:14)
- God the Son became the man Jesus.
  - His blood cleanse us from the guilt of sins.
  - enabled us to serve (worship) Him.

# Incarnation

The Creator became a creature:

- Helpless baby
- Died 'helplessly' on the Cross



# Truth: Enter the Holiest

## Hebrews 10:19-22



Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Consecrated a new and living way. Jesus is the way...  
(John 14:6)
- Draw near with full assurance to worship

# Truth:

2 Chronicles 7:14

IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY  
MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES,

**AND PRAY AND  
SEEK MY FACE**

AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS,  
THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND  
WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND  
HEAL THEIR LAND.

- Worship must be sincere and humble from the heart.
- Repent ..turn from sin.



# Worship in the Spirit


for we, believers, are the true circumcision, who worship  
in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus  
and put no confidence  
in the flesh

Philippians 3:3

Knowing-Jesus.com

- Worship 'that put no confidence in the flesh'.
- Acknowledge our utter inability to worship and cry out....Spirit help me!

# Whom to worship?



Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

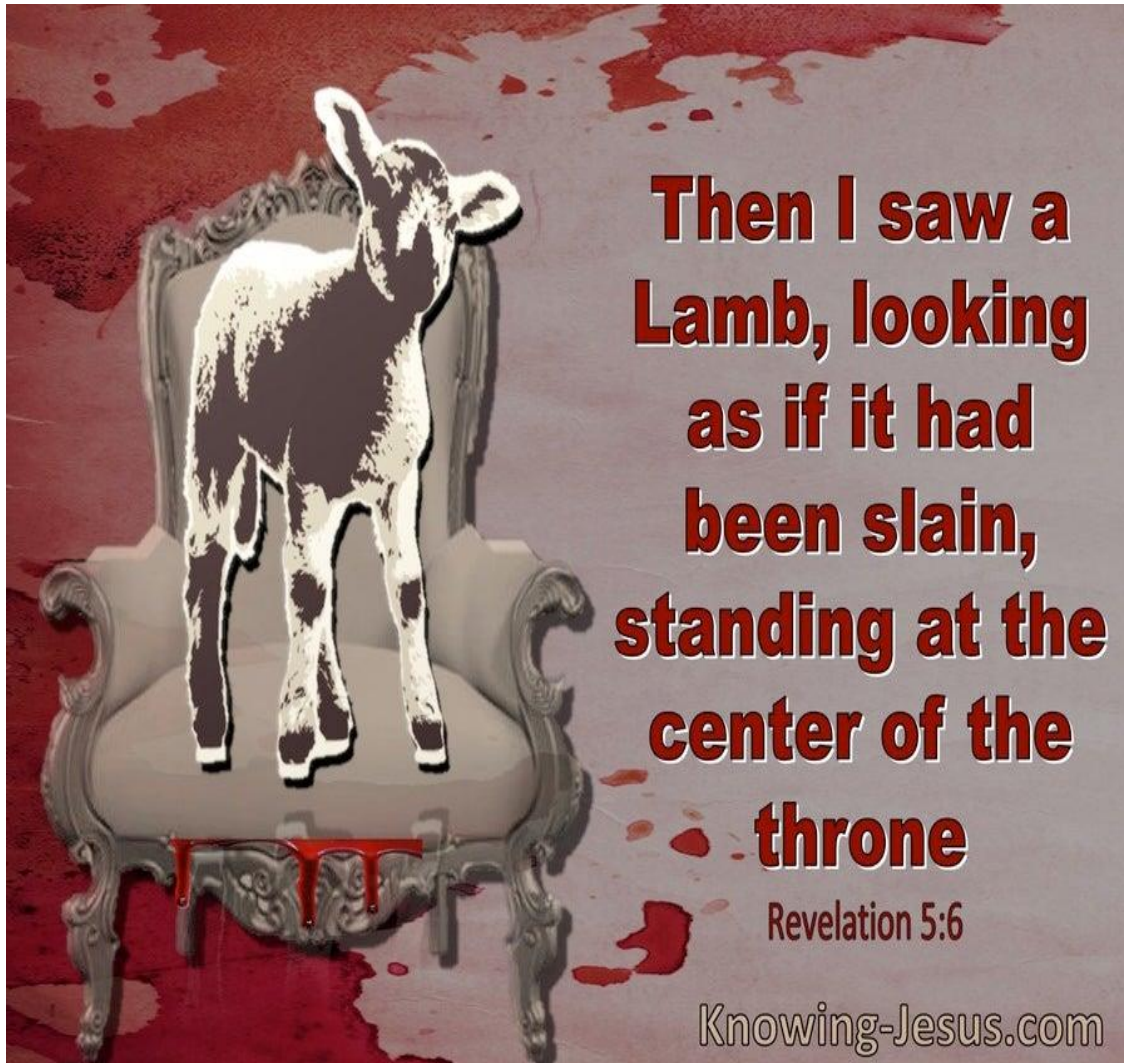
MATTHEW 4:10

#Bible - HashTagBible.app

- Worship the Lord your God (the Triune God) Matthew 4:10



# Worship the Father and the Lamb



**Then I saw a  
Lamb, looking  
as if it had  
been slain,  
standing at the  
center of the  
throne**

Revelation 5:6

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- <sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:
- “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”
- <sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

# Worship Jesus

- <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ( Philippians 2)
- <sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,
- “Let all God’s angels worship him.” (Hebrews 1)

# Why worship?




*After these things I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. - (Revelation 7:9)*

Believers from all nations and tribes, peoples and tongues...dressed in white robes (righteousness of Christ)



# Gaze on His beauty and majesty



One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

**Psalm 27:4**

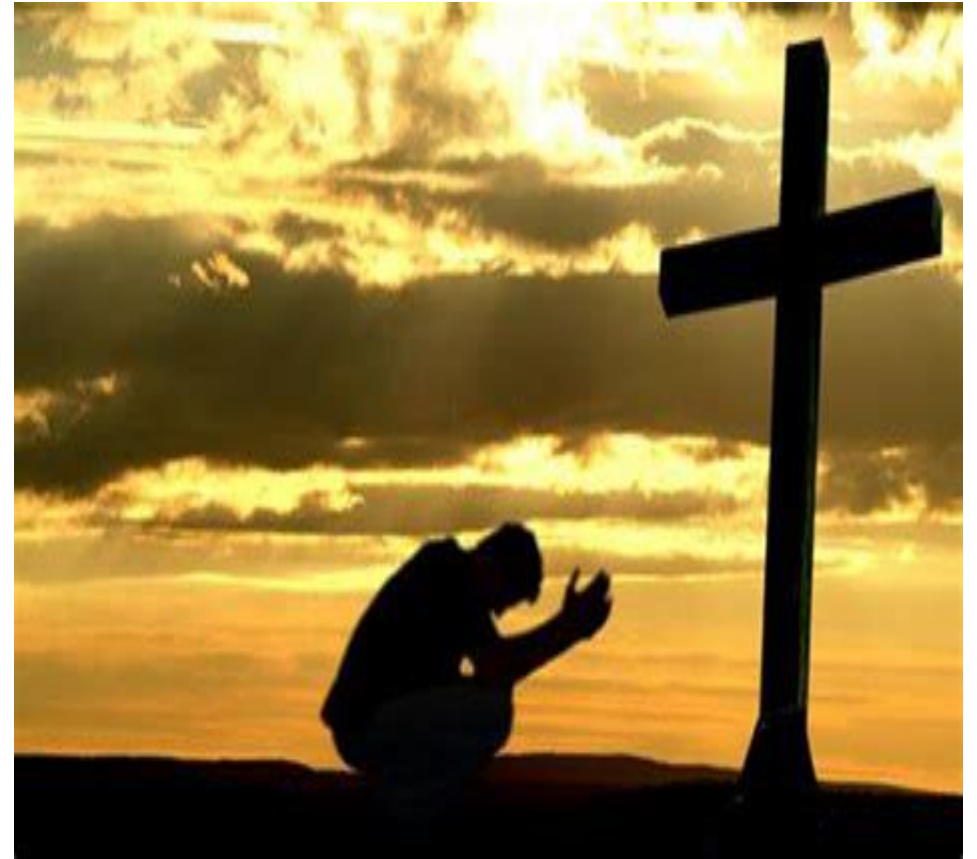
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- Gaze on the beauty of the LORD
- Transformed (2 Cor 3:18)

**Danger: too busy  
to worship**

# Worship the LORD

- Is the soul bowing itself in adoring contemplation of God.
- We are the temple of God.
- Worship is of the heart, not of location or buildings



# Worship is

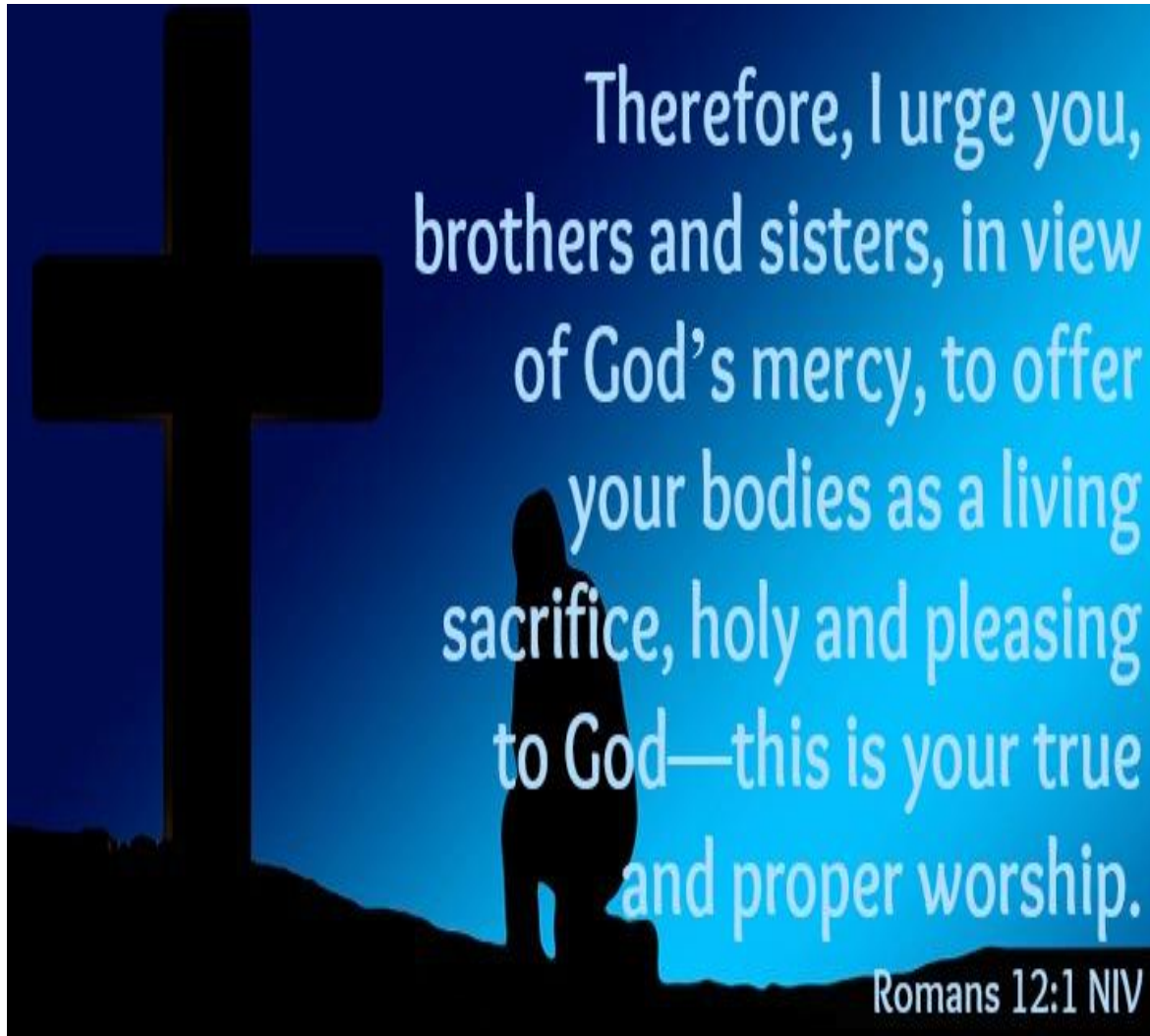
- our response to an encounter with God.
- focused on God, who alone is worthy of worship
- based on truth: Christ as Savior and Lord
- Spirit led and enabled

## Worship service ....

- help us to meet God....
- leading to genuine worship which comes from the heart,
  
- not hypocritically ...continue in sin
- nor superficially....as routine



# Lifestyle of worship



- Not about attending church or following rituals only
- An act of sacrifice of our daily lives...righteous living