

## **Giving God His Due - Worship**

### **Dan 6:10-17**

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

13 So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

14 And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. 15 Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." 17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. NKJV

The book of Daniel really says a lot about worship. That is because, you cannot be dedicated to God without worship. And also dedication to God will preclude you from worshipping other things beside God.

Daniel will not worship his friend the king and he will not stop petitioning his God for 30 days.

The three Hebrew children will not bow to the image of Nebuchadnezzar even if they must be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Even Nebuchadnezzar worships the God of Daniel in chapter 4. And his grandson finds out the danger of desecrating the things of God in chapter 5.

So the book of Daniel has much to say about worship and worship is what we are to be about here at First Baptist. We call this the worship service because that is what it is.

I have been to the Civic Center theater but there are not kneeling benches there. There are no kneeling benches at Carnegie Hall. But many churches have them.

I went to a funeral the other day at a church when my back was still quite sore and I was hoping that we would not be required to kneel for I was sure I could get up.

Worship is not so much about having a good time as it is of having the proper attitude in heart and mind.

I have a little problem when we could take a video of a rock concert and a worship service and not be able to tell the difference unless we added the audio track.

Why do I say that. It is because of what the Bible says about worship and has nothing to do with my preferences.

I. The word of worship in the Bible comes from two main words.

A. 07812. shachah (1005b); a prim. root; to bow down: —

1. NAS-bow (5), bow ourselves down (1), bow yourselves down (1), bow down (21), bowed (16), bowed in worship (1), bowed themselves down (2), bowed down (14), bowing (1), bowing down (1), bows down (1), did homage (1), down in homage (1), homage (1), lie down (1), paid homage (3), prostrate (2), prostrated (13), prostrating (1), weighs it down (1), worship (47), worshiped (31), worshipping (3), worships (2).
2. 07812. shachah shaw-khaw'; a primitive root; to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive, in homage to royalty or God): — bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.
3. So then the word means to bow down, with the idea of humbling ones self before someone greater.
  - a. That is not complicated but it can be faked.
  - b. Not everyone who bows the body is bowing the will, the mind, the heart to God.
  - c. We have made worship such that we can go through all the motions and never bend our inner self to Jesus.
  - d. I have seen worship leaders try to persuade the congregation to do something physically (such as raising their hands) in worship, not realizing that the outward motion does not mean and inward movement.
4. The things performed in a worship service need to focus on one thing, getting us to bow before the God of the universe and our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. From the songs to the prayers to the scriptures read and preached.
  - b. Even to the offering, realizing that all that we have comes from Him.
  - c. And we have an opportunity to do this once a week corporately,

together as His church.

- B. 4352 proskuneo; from 4314 and kuneo (to kiss); to do reverence to:--
1. NAS-bow down (1), bow down before (1), bowed down (1), bowed down before (2), bowing before (1), bowing down (1), prostrated himself before (1), worship (32), worshiped (17), worshipers (1), worshipping (1), worships (1).
  2. proskuneo pros-koo-neh'-o; from 4314 and a probable derivative of 2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); TDNT-6:758,948; {See TDNT 670} v AV-worship 60; 60 1) to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence
  3. The master approaches the dog and the dog in humble admission of his owner comes to kiss, to lick his hand.
  4. It is an attitude of humility.
  5. It is an attitude of submission.
  - 6.
- C. Isn't it interesting how these two words have developed into our modern worship system.
1. Is worship that is 98% entertainment really worship.
  2. I can enjoy a good basket ball game.
    - a. The score is close, your child gets the ball and makes the winning score.
    - b. The adrenaline flow and the endorphins flood our brain and we come from the game with sort of a high.
    - c. But if worship is designed to get our adrenlin gland pumping and our endorphins moving so that we can feel really great, is that worship.
    - d. When worship has the goal to make the worshiper feel good then we might have missed the mark.
  3. I remember hearing of a man who, a century ago went to London and listened to a well know preacher. When the service was over the visitor walked from the meeting saying over and over, "What a preacher." That evening he went to listen to Mr. Spurgeon, that great Baptist preacher, preach. After the meeting he was heard saying over and over, "What a Savior."
  4. What ever we say when we leave the service, unless it is, "O what a

Savior”, we have not experienced real worship.

II. Worship is the attitude of the heart that humbles ones self before God.

A. Every time we see God show up, we see people bow down.

1. Robert Browning quoted, in a letter to a lady in her last illness, the words of Charles Lamb, when in a gay fancy with some friends as to how he and they would feel if the greatest of the dead were to appear suddenly in flesh and blood once more—on the first suggestion, and "if Christ entered this room?" changed his tone at once, and stuttered out as his manner was when moved: "You see —if Shakespeare entered, we should all rise; if Christ appeared, we must kneel." *The Great Doctrines of the Bible. Great Doctrines Evans*

III. Worship is reserved only for God.

A. The three Hebrew children will not worship the image.

B. Daniel will not worship his friend the king.

C. Matthew 4:10 (NKJV) 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

D. Revelation 22:8-9 (NKJV) 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

E. Acts 10:25-26 (NKJV) 25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."