

SESSION
THREE

The Requirements For A True Worshiper

Psalm 24:3 – 6



Illustration: Why Eight-Year Olds Don't Drive

Make no mistake. God is not in NEED of our worship and He is not begging us to praise Him. God is totally complete in Himself and doesn't need a thing from us – not even worship.

In fact, there are certain things REQUIRED of us so that we can worship Him. If we don't meet His requirements, we are not His worshipers.

What does true worship require?

1. The first requirement is a right relationship with God through Jesus.

- A person without a right relationship with God simply cannot worship God. In other words, a non-Christian just cannot worship God. Why not? Because a person without Christ is **DEAD!** (As in not living, room temperature, no pulse – dead.)



Illustration: Bringing A Corpse To Church



EPHESIANS 2:1-5 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved."

- Saving faith is required if we are to be pleasing to God.

HEBREWS 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

- Those who do not believe are condemned already.

JOHN 3:16-21 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

- God is so serious about His glory that He sent Jesus as THE way for us to have a right relationship with Him.

JOHN 14:6 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

- The Bible shows us how we can have a relationship with God.

ROMANS 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

ROMANS 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 10:9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

- God has saved us for His glory.

1 PETER 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

2. The second requirement is holiness before God.

PSALM 24:3-6 "Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. ⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. ⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob."

- We can't be holy when we have idols in our lives.



Illustration: "Honey, you're number one!"



Illustration: Faithful 360 Days a Year

Even if we're doing all the outward things of worship, they don't mean anything if our lifestyles don't match up! A godly lifestyle backs up what we say in our worship.

- Being a lover of this world makes holiness impossible.

1 JOHN 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."



ROMANS 12:1-2 *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

- Our first act of worship is to lay our lives completely before God – **we** are the sacrifice that is being offered to God.

3. The third requirement is a right attitude about worship.

- Worship is serious business and many are far too casual about the worship of a holy God.



Illustration: Dressing up to go play in the mud

- People have **died** because they did not take the holiness of God seriously enough.

Think about these examples:



NADAB & ABIHU



LEVITICUS 10:1-3 *"Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. ² So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Moses then said to*

Aaron, 'This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored."'"

- Even though they had seen God, obeying Him exactly must not have been important to them.
- They dropped dead because they did not approach the worship of God with an attitude of awe and reverence.

UZZAH

1 CHRONICLES 13:7-10 "They moved the ark of God from Abinadab's house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it. ⁸ David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets. ⁹ When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰ The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God."

- The Ark of the Covenant was a holy thing because it represented God's presence among His people.
- Uzzah did not take the holiness of God or the significance of the Ark seriously enough and it cost him his life.
- Our approach to God and His worship must never be casual. Even though we can approach the throne of God with boldness and confidence because of Jesus, we must do so with fear and reverence.



Illustration: In the Secret

HEBREWS 12:28-29 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"



Make it real!

What things in your life hold you back from being the worshiper that God desires?

How can you show a real fear and reverence of a holy God in worship?