

5



WORSHIP





How not to Worship

1

Do not worship for personal enjoyment.

2

Do not sacrifice the Scriptures for the Spirit.

3

Do not leave the Spirit for the content.

4

Do not forget the Father.

5

Do not neglect individual worship.

6

Do not separate life from worship.

7

Do not idolize objects, places or persons.

8

Do not act disorderly.

9

Do not decry other forms of worship.

10

Do not ignore the other side of worship.



How not to Worship

Introduction

- There will be no “preaching” in Heaven;
because, our knowledge would have been perfected.
There will be no “praying” either;
because all our needs would have been fulfilled.
There will be only “praise!” Rev 4:8; 7:9-12,15; 22:3-5
So much so, if we worship God “rightly” today,
it will be a foretaste of Heaven on earth!

- Satan longs to be worshipped —
 - That’s the reason for his fall:
Isa 14:12-15 ... *Lucifer ... I will exalt my throne ...*
 - He tried it with the Lord Jesus:
Mt 4:8,9 ... *all these things to You ...*
if You will fall down and worship me ...
 - He will attempt it during the Second Coming also:
2 Thess 2:1,3,4 ... *sits as God in the Temple ...*

When he is not successful in his attempts, he constantly seeks to obstruct true worship, or distract people from it — especially because there’s a renewed interest in praise & worship everywhere.

Satan is so cunning that he can make the false appear true!

Enthusiasm in worship is necessary; but if Biblical prescriptions are ignored, we will bring in “*strange fires*,” invoking God’s displeasure (Lev 10:1-3)

Let’s cleanse our worship of 10 unscriptural things to make it totally acceptable to God.

How not to Worship

1. Do not worship for personal enjoyment.

- The usual answers to the question,
“How was the Worship?”
 - It was exciting!
 - I felt good!

What can “I” **get**? — The modern mindset in everything,
including religion!

But true worship asks,

“What can I **give** God?”

Psa 96:7-9 ... *Give ... Give ... Give ...*

eg) The first mention of the word “WORSHIP” —

In the OT: Gen 22:5

By worship Abraham meant “*sacrificing*” of his son.

In the NT: Mt 2:2

The wise men from the East “*gave*” Him gifts.

- Worship must be God-centred, not man-centred.
“Worship” — an Anglosaxon word meaning “worthship”
i.e. to ascribe to God supreme worth

God is “worthy” to be praised —

eg) David ... 2 Sam 22:4

... *the Lord ... worthy to be praised*

24 Elders ... Rev 4:10,11

...*fall down ... worship ... You are worthy...*

■ Prayer vs. Thanksgiving vs. Worship (Praise)

- “Save me, Lord” — Prayer
“Thank You, Lord, for saving me” — Thanksgiving
“Praise You, Lord, my Saviour” — Worship
- “Heal me, Lord” — Prayer
“Thank You, Lord, for healing me” — Thanksgiving
“Praise You, Lord, my Healer” — Worship

Thanksgiving — Praising God for what He **GIVES/DOES**

Worship — Praising God for who He **IS**

i.e. Not mainly concerned with the “blessings”

but concentrating on the “Blessed.”

- Psalmist
God’s glory (Psa 8:1; 57:5; 66:2; 96:3; 113:4)
God’s power (Psa 20:6; 62:11; 65:6; 78:26; 150:2)
God’s goodness (Psa 23:6; 27:13; 69:16; 86:5; 109:21)
God’s love (Psa 6:4; 13:5; 25:10; 36:5; 63:3)
God’s faithfulness (Psa 26:3; 36:5; 71:22; 86:11; 138:2)
 - Prophet Habakkuk 3:17,18
“*Though the fig tree ... rejoice in **God** ...*”

The prophet was so taken up with a spirit of worship
that he wanted this to be sung with *stringed instruments!*
 - Similarly Job 1:20-22
worshipped ... Lord gave ... taken away ...
 - Not the creature, but the “Creator”
Rom 1:25 ... *truth vs. lie*
- Here’s where musicians and songleaders must be
extra-careful and extremely cautious.

Songleaders, beware of becoming performers!
Musicians, beware of becoming entertainers!

The worship time not for the display of talents ...
No theatrical postures, please!

The attraction should not be
towards the singers or musicians —

eg) When the 120 Priests started singing with music,
they were hidden but the glory of God was seen —

2 Chr 5:12-14

They didn't say, The music is good or singing is great;
but "*the Lord is good!*"

- Then there comes a question —

Does it mean we will not be joyful in and after worship?

No! But the joy is because of what God has received
rather than what we got!

eg) Isa 56:7 ... We are made *joyful*
because our offerings are "*accepted*"

Let's thus come back to the Bible
to learn the purest form of worship.

- A hymn by Isaac Watts (1674-1748):

*Give to our God immortal praise;
Mercy and truth are all His ways:
Wonders of grace to God belong,
Repeat His mercies in your song!*

How not to Worship

2. Do not sacrifice the Scriptures for the Spirit.

- The Jewish worship as we read in the OT was quite **ceremonial**.

The death of Christ rang the deathbell to ceremonial worship—

when the *veil in the Temple was torn!*

(Mt 27:51)

Foreseeing this change from “ceremonial” to “spiritual” worship,

Jesus said, Worship must be “*in spirit and in truth*” (Jn 4:24)

From this verse we have picked up only one aspect —

i.e. “*in spirit*”

but we have forgotten the other — i.e. “*in truth*”

i.e. our worship must be not only “spiritual”

but also “scriptural.”

Jesus told the Father: “*Your Word is **Truth!***” (Jn 17:17)

- Worship must be born of both “inspiration” and “information!”

We must “**know**” whom we worship (Jn 4:22)

This knowledge of God comes primarily

thro’ the Scriptures —

Jesus: “... *the Scriptures ... they testify of Me*” (Jn 5:39)

“... *Law ... Prophets ... Psalms ... concerning Me*” (Lk 24:44)

eg) Jesus in —

Genesis : Seed of the Woman
Exodus : Pascal Lamb
Leviticus : High Priest
Numbers : Smitten Rock
Deuteronomy: Teacher from God
Prophets : Prince of Peace
Matthew : King of the Jews
Mark : Servant of Jehovah
Luke : Son of Man
John : Son of God
Acts : Lord of the Harvest
Epistles : Lord of the Church
Revelation : Lord of the Nations as King of kings

Search out for the 100s of Names of God in the Bible —

Meditate on each of them —

Dwell on one Name each day for your worship —

Your worship will become rich and rapturous!

Worship God with an open Bible!

Keep a worship notebook —

the best way to avoid *VAIN REPETITIONS*.

- Neglect of the Scriptures makes worship worthless —

Mt 15:8,9 ... *Vain worship* because *commandments of men* replace the *doctrine of God*
:3 ... Traditions replace Truth.

i.e. We get filled with our own ways and thoughts.

Only when the Word of God is given its due place of prominence,
worship is fragrant before God —

Psa 138:2 ... *“Worship ... Word”*

Similarly Psa 33:2-4 ... *“Praise ... sing ... FOR the WORD ...”*

- Once there was too little worship
and too much of preaching;
now the pendulum has swung to the other extreme.

The time for the meditation or exposition of the Word
must not be crowded out by worship, in gatherings —

Strike a balance: Neh 9:3

3 hours of Bible reading and 3 hours of worship

We may say that Worship prepares the hearts for the Word
— true — but worship becomes more meaningful

when the heart is filled with the Word—

*“Let the Word **dwell** richly ... singing”* (Col 3:16)

i.e. Steady & regular & abundant intake ... not casual

The outflow will be “rich” worship

... Psalms ... hymns ... songs

Such a worship will “glorify” God and “edify” others.

Corporate worship must have both these dimensions —

1 Cor 14:17

eg) Isa 6:3

One to another, “Holy ... Holy ... Holy ...

the earth ... glory”

This truth is brought out in Eph 5:18,19 also —

“speaking to one another ... singing to the Lord”

How not to Worship

3. Do not leave the Spirit for the content.

- This is the other extreme of what we studied in the previous chapter.

Do not sacrifice one for the other!

There are two classic worship passages in the NT —

Col 3:16 ... Worship from a heart full of the “Scriptures”

Eph 5:18-20 ... Worship from a heart full of the “Spirit”

Yes,

Worship is meaningless without the Scriptures;

Worship is unacceptable without the Spirit (1 Cor 12:3b)

Holy Scriptures : Fuel for Worship

Holy Spirit : Fire for Worship

The Holy Spirit is the “breath” of the Holy Scriptures.

Mere letter kills; but the Spirit gives life! (2 Cor 3:6c)

- We have so many examples in the Acts of the Apostles as to how the Holy Spirit led His people into rapturous worship—

- Jewish Christians (Acts 2:4,11)

They were already worshipping (Lk 24:52,53);

but now a new dimension!

- Non-Jewish worshippers (Acts 10:45,46)

The Holy Spirit gives an inner release for worship.

My testimony from an Anglican background —

The *Common Prayer Book* I was using was rich in content;

but a release was necessary!

I experienced it when the Holy Spirit filled me.

- If you have inhibitions or apprehensions in worship,
join those who are quite expressive and exulting in praise —

Psa 89:15 ... *People who know the joyful **sound!***

81:1,2 ... *Sing **aloud** ... joyful **shout** ...*

***raise** a song ... strike the timbrel ...*

Heaven will be a place of non-stop shouts of praise —

Rev 8:1 ... *30 minutes of silence* is recorded!

- Speaking in tongues

In the gifts listed in 1 Cor 12:7-10,

this is the only gift addressed to **God!**

All the rest towards men.

It's mainly for praise and thanksgiving (1 Cor 14:17)

I speak in tongues in my private prayer (1 Cor 14:18,19)

It “*edifies*” me — i.e. gives me an inner release (1 Cor 14:4)

This is one reason why people were found speaking in tongues
so often when they were filled with the Holy Spirit —

(Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6)

- This does not mean we must always look for excitement
in worship.

Beware, that may lead us to sensationalism.

We are called to walk by faith and not by sight or feelings

(2 Cor 5:7)

The point is,

unless we seek the help of the Holy Spirit in worship,

we will end up in dead formalism —

... *neither cold nor hot but lukewarm* (Rev 3:15,16)

How not to Worship

4. Do not forget the Father.

- Most of the modern Songs and Choruses used in worship are about **Jesus** only rather than about the **Father** —

But it is the Father who primarily **seeks** worshippers for Him — Jn 4:23

The Bible teaches this truth consistently —

Phil 3:3 ... *God ... Spirit ... Christ*

Col 1:3 ... *God and Father of our Lord*

Js 3:9 ... *Our God and Father*

- Then where does Jesus come in Worship?

Eph 5:20 ... *“In the Name of our Lord Jesus ...”*

Col 3:17 ... *“In the Name of the Lord Jesus ...”*

An important principle: Any doctrine must be established by the **consistent** teaching of the Scripture, and not from an isolated passage —

2 Cor 13:1,2 ... *two or three witnesses ... told ... foretell ... write ...*

- This does not mean we must not worship Christ the Son —

But the **ultimate** worship is to the Father —

Phil 2:9-11 ... **TO** *the glory of the Father* —

Heb 2:12 ... Jesus Himself worships the Father

Jn 14:6 ... Jesus is the **Way**

but the final **destination** is the Father.

Eph 4:4-6 ... *One Spirit ... One Lord ...*
but when it comes to *the Father*,
“**above** all ... **thro’** all ... **in** you all!”

That’s why in the final stage,
the Son also *subjects Himself* to the Father—
1 Cor 15:28

- What about the passages in the Book of Revelation which speak of worshipping the Lamb of God?

Rev 5:13 ... *To HIM on the Throne AND to the Lamb*
7:9,10 ... *To GOD on the Throne AND to the Lamb*

i.e. In Heaven the mediatory work of Christ would be over;
then the worship is addressed to both.

- However, there is no direct reference to the worship of the Holy Spirit —

Jn 16:14 ... The Spirit glorifies the Son.
17:4 ... The Son glorifies the Father.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are coequal;
but in the divine order,
worship is to be primarily addressed to the Father.

- Worship to go TO the Father,
IN THE NAME OF the Son,
BY the power and enablement of the Holy Spirit.

(See also Pages 92-94)

How not to Worship

5. Do not neglect individual worship.

- Worship must not only be what we do in the Sunday Service or Praise & Worship Meetings. Individual/Personal worship must precede corporate/congregational/collective worship. Corporate worship will be spontaneous and jubilant only when each member spends enough time in individual worship —

Individual: Psa 34:1,2 ... **I** will bless the Lord

Corporate: :3 ... Let **us** exalt His Name

Otherwise the song leader/pastor will have to struggle and exhaust himself to bring the people into a spirit of worship.

■ **How to enhance private worship —**

- a) Keep a Worship notebook

— The redemptive/compound Names of Jehovah

eg) *Jehovah-jireh* (God the Provider)

Jehovah-shammah (God who's present)

Jehovah-nissi (God the Victor)

Jehovah-raah (God the Shepherd)

Jehovah-rapha (God the Healer), etc.

— The characteristics of God

God is love.

God is light.

God is merciful.

God of Grace

God of Peace ... etc.

— How God revealed Himself
primarily to various individuals:

God of Deliverance
God of Covenants
God of Promise
Lord of Hosts
God of Glory ... etc.

— God Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient

Use this notebook regularly in your individual prayertime.

b) Use spare moments to whisper praise to God —
Psa 34:1 ... *praise continually in my mouth*

This is how we can fully realise the Presence of God —
Acts 2:25,26 ... *I foresaw the Lord always before me...*

c) Observe and enjoy nature to remember God's glory —
Psalmist: Psa 19:1 ... *The heavens declare the
glory of God ...*

The Hymnologist:

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works Thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power thro'out the universe displayed—*

Then *sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou art! ...*

Take morning and evening walks along countryside,
riverbeds, seashores, mountains, fields, gardens, jungles, and
so on for this exercise. Look at the starry sky at nights.

- d) Allot more time for praise than for prayer —
 - eg) Psalmist — 7 times in a day for Praise (Psa 119:164)
3 times for Prayer (Psa 55:17)
 - i.e. For adoring God — 70%
For asking from God — 30%

*“More blessed to **give** than to **receive!**”*

- Do these exercises consistently.

This is how you can move out of traditions
into the truth of God’s Word.

There’s no better way than the Bible way!

How not to Worship

6. Do not separate life from worship.

- A husband about his wife:

“She is an angel in the Church,
but a devil in the kitchen!”

This is true of most of us!

True worship actually begins with lifestyle —

Rom 12:1 ... *“present your bodies ... spiritual worship”*

What does this mean?

Explained in Rom 6:19 ... *“present your organs as slaves
of righteousness for holiness”*

We are to *worship in this “beauty” of holiness* —

Thrice stated in the Bible: 1 Chr 16:29

Psa 29:2

96:9

- Another dimension of this holiness
is regarding our interpersonal relationships —

1 Tim 2:8 ... *“lifting up holy hands ... without wrath”*

This was the repeated message of the OT prophets —

Isa 1:15 ... *spreading hands ... prayers ...*

... full of blood ...

“blood” — Relationship problems (v17)

Hatred in relationships is called “murder” —

1 Jn 3:15 ... *who hates his brother is a murderer*

That's why reconciliation necessary

while coming to the altar —

Mt 5:21-24 ... *murder ... abuse ... first reconcile ...*

Blessing God vs. Cursing men (Js 3:9-11)

No **holiness** without **peace** with one another (Heb 12:14)

If we don't love a brother whom we have seen,

how can we love God whom we have not seen? (1 Jn 4:20)

It's otherwise a "LIE."

■ Sunday Christians vs. Monday Christians

The Church can be crowded by Sunday Christians.

But the society can be impacted only by the

Monday Christians!

— Mt 5:16 ... Worship vs. Works

Do not separate the "secular" from the "sacred."

Nothing is secular for a Christian —

1 Cor 10:31 ... *eat ... drink ... whatever you do*

Give no offence to anyone —

:32 ... *Jews* = nominal Christians

Greeks = non-Christians

Church = true Christians

■ There's so much of teaching on "worship" these days,

but very little on lifestyle;

but Jesus spoke **first** on "lifestyle" & then on "worship"—

eg) Samaritan Woman

Jn 4:16-18 ... *Bring your husband*

:21-24 ... *worship*

Yes, it's holiness that adds beauty to worship —

Not the dresses of the singers ...

Not the multiplicity of the instruments ...

Not the hi-fi technics used in worship ...

Not the flashing colour lights ...

“Worship the Lord in the **beauty of holiness!**” (Psa 96:9)

- A hymn by George Herbert (1593-1633):

Seven whole days, not one in seven,

I will praise Thee;

In my heart, though not in Heaven,

I can raise Thee.

Wherefore with my utmost art

I will sing Thee,

And the cream of all my heart

I will bring Thee!

How not to Worship

7. Do not idolize objects, places or persons.

- The second of the 10 Commandments —
Ex 20:4,5 ... *any image ... likeness ...*
This is the first time God says,
“I am a **jealous** God!”
He will not share His glory with anyone!
- Do not idolize objects.
2 Ki 18:4 ... *Hezekiah ... bronze serpent*
Bowing before Crosses or Crucifixes is idolatry.
- Do not idolize places.
 - The Samaritan woman asked “where” to worship...
Jesus answered “whom” and “how” to worship
Jn 4:20-24 ... *God is “Spirit,” not a substance*
 - Mount of Transfiguration
Mk 9:5-8 ... No sanctity to places!
 - They did not build a shrine in the Upper Room!
- Do not idolize buildings.
God is a Spirit and not an object/substance;
as such He cannot be localized.
 - First martyr: *God does not dwell in temples made with hands*
Acts 7:48
 - Solomon himself confessed:
“Will God indeed **dwell** on earth ...
Heaven of heavens cannot contain Him” (1 Ki 8:27)

— First disciple:

Peter: 1 Pet 2:5

“living stones ... spiritual house”

— No temple in New Jerusalem (unlike the old Jerusalem)

Rev 21:22

Quoting 2 Chr 7:15 **today** is wrong; it's a lie!

It was referring to Solomon's Temple
for a particular period only —

Now, *the veil is torn* (Mt 27:51)

A thoroughfare to the *Throne* (Heb 4:14-16)

Now, *“Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name...”*

(Mt 18:20)

God allowed the Temple to be destroyed!

Today there's nothing like

“Holy” vs. “Most Holy” place

or “Holy” vs. “Unholy” place

■ Do not idolize pictures.

Acts 17:29 ... *No artwork for deity*

:30 ... *Those were times of ignorance!*

How about pictures/portraits of Jesus?

2 Cor 5:16 ... *Though we have known Christ according
to the flesh ... no longer ... from now on ...*

Do not copy Evangelists who are mainly ministering
to the unconverted and the non-Christians ...

*“When I was a child ... thought like a child ...
but when I became a man”* (1 Cor 13:11)

- Do not idolize men.

Acts 10:25,26 ... *“Cornelius fell down to worship Peter”*

Peter: *“Stand up ... I am also a man!”*

India is known for “god-men” who enjoy people worshipping them!

Nowadays, politicians also covet worship from people.

These are all demonic and devilish.

Don't allow even a trace of it in Christendom.

- Do not worship angels.

Rev 19:10 ... *Worship God*

22:8,9 ... *Worship God*

Even an apostle like John, with so much of revelation, committed this blunder.

Beware!

- The tendency of the Israelites toward idolatry was an expression of the human longing for a god who can be “seen” and “known” thro' physical senses.

We are to “*walk*” in **faith** (2 Cor 5:7),
and “*worship*” in **spirit** (Jn 4:24).

How not to Worship

8. Do not act disorderly.

- An oft-quoted text in Churches to support freestyle worship—
2 Cor 3:17 ... *Where there's Spirit ... liberty*

No doubt the Holy Spirit gives us a release in worship,
but this passage does not speak about it —

Context: vv 14-16 ... *Old Testament ... veil ...*

This speaks of how we are delivered or liberated
from the bondage of the Law of the Old Testament
when we turn to Christ!

i.e. Law to Grace (Rom 6:14)

*“No more **under** the Law, but under Grace!”*

- A few practical exhortations —

- Sing aloud but not fast!

Psa 81:1,2 ... *Sing aloud ... shout ...*

Do not beat drums too fast and lead people to frenzy!

That's paganism —

to invoke demonic spirits.

Why should the last two stanzas of a song alone
be repeated and sung to fast beats?

Look at Paul's corrective teaching to **pagan** converts —

1 Cor 12:2 ... *Gentiles ... dumb idols ...*

This is the beginning of the chapters 12, 13 & 14
on the operation of the gifts in the NT gathering.

The end of the teaching —

14:40 ... *decently ... in order*

Especially they were excited about speaking in “tongues” —
Paul admonished them not to speak in “tongues”
in the Church unless it was interpreted (14:18-20)

“10,000 words vs. 5 words”

“childish ... mature”

□ How about shouting?

We can shout but not scream! (Ex 32:17,18)

Psa 95:1,2 ... *shout joyfully* ...

Even rejoicing should be with *TREMBLING!* (Psa 2:11b)

In some quarters,

even roaring and barking are reported in gatherings.

People call it, “Animal Sounds of the Holy Spirit!”

We are created in the image of God;

we are lower than **angels** but higher than **animals!**

Becoming like an animal is actually a curse/punishment
from God—

eg) King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 5:20,21)

□ Physical expressions must be controlled for “*decency*” —

“*The spirits of the Prophets subject to the prophets ...*”

(1 Cor 14:32)

The very next verse —

“*God is not the author of confusion*” (v33)

i.e. If **we** don’t maintain orderliness and decency,

we must not throw the blame on the Holy Spirit !

This is not for the Corinthian Church alone

which had many confusions —

These instructions are for

“*all the Churches of the saints*” (v33b)

Clap! — but be rhythmic!

Dance! — but be graceful!

Have consideration for others!

- It's not "feeling" the Presence of God,
but "knowing" it is what's important —
"where two or three ... I AM there!" (Mt 18:20)
Fact first — Faith next — Feelings only last
- Be sensitive to culture—
In the Eastern Countries:
Mostly *bowing down* and *kneeling* (Psa 95:6)
Lifting up of hands is generally not by women (1 Tim 2:8)
In the very next verse, there's a reference to "*women*" (v9)
But in the Western world:
Women lift up hands freely in worship.
South Indian women in sarees may not find it
comfortable to do so.
- Whatever Paul has written in 1 Cor 12,13 & 14 is not
according to his own whims and fancies,
but they are the "*commandments*" of the Lord (1 Cor 14:37)
As disciples of Christ,
we are to follow His Rule Book.

How not to Worship

9. Do not decry other forms of worship.

- Churches can be broadly classified into two categories—
Pentecostal vs. non-Pentecostal

The basic difference is in the understanding of
the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the greatest Unifier;
but it's sad that His work has become the bone of contention
among Christians.

We won't get into that subject now —

Both the groups have their strengths and weaknesses.
Pentecostals worship aloud;
Non-Pentecostals are not so noisy.

There's place for both —

Psa 46:10 ... *Be still and know ...*
47:1 ... *Shout to God ...*

King Solomon combines both —

Eccl 3:7b ... *A time to be silent ...*
A time to speak ...

God can work in and through both conditions —

eg) Job 38:1 ... *out of the whirlwind*
1 Ki 19:11,12 ... *in the small whisper*

God is sovereign;

He cannot be confined to our favourite pattern!

— Postures (eg. Book of Psalms)

Bow or Kneel

Lift or Clap hands

Dance or Prostrate

- Another difference in the worship patterns of these two groups —

Liturgical vs. Free or Extempore

— Liturgical worship is usually rich in content.

The subjects also cover a wide range.

— Free and extempore worship allows spontaneity and ample creativity.

Personal Testimony:

My Anglican background —

I've memorized several prayers and worship passages from the *Common Book of Prayer* —

Actually it contains many "uncommon" prayers!

I got filled with the Holy Spirit in 1963.

This did not cancel the earlier learning and training; but gave a new dimension and release!

Not "either or" but "both" are necessary!

We must not throw the baby with the bath water!

- Hymns vs. Choruses

Most of the oldtime hymns were written during periods of Revival —

eg) Charles Wesley (John Wesley) 17th Century

Ira Sankey (D.L. Moody) 18th Century

They were known not only for their "devotional" quality but also the "doctrinal" content —

eg) A hymn by Bishop Reginald Heber (1783-1826):

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty...
God in Three Persons — Blessed Trinity!*

- Immediately someone may ask,
Are we not supposed to sing *NEW songs*?
What does a “NEW song” mean? —
Psa 40:2,3 ... just to contrast the OLD life
of “horrible pit and miry clay”
Rev 5:9,10 ... just to celebrate our position
in Christ ... *all things NEW* (2 Cor 5:17)

i.e. Not the “old” song of blasphemy or filthy words!
If the “old” songs or “new” songs refer to “time period,”
then we cannot use the Book of Psalms;
because they are all old songs!

It was the Songbook of the Hebrews!

The Bible calls us to use all these —

Eph 5:19

Psalms ... Psalms set to music as done in Anglican worship

Hymns ... Songs composed by hymnologists

Spiritual songs ... Freestyle choruses & songs

- Another consideration—

The Church is made up of both “*young*” and “*old*” —

All are called to praise the Lord —

Psa 148:12

“Both young men & maidens; old men & children”

Youth prefer guitar and drums accompaniment — fast

Old folks like organ/piano accompaniment — slow

Youth must respect the taste of elders.
Seniors must not despise the youth.

One must give preference to the other group.

When the Temple Priests and Scribes were upset
with the shouting of the *Hosanna praise* of the children,
Jesus defended the act of the children—

Mt 21:15,16 ... *out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants*
... *perfected praise*

Our God is a God of variety!
There's beauty in diversity!

How not to Worship

10. Do not ignore the other side of worship.

- Praising God with words is only one side of worship.
The Bible speaks of several other acts
as the other side of worship —
- **Liberal Charity**
Heb 13:15,16 ... *sacrifice of praise ... do good and share*
The Priest and the Levite (more concerned about their
duties in the Temple than about the dying man!)
(Lk 10:30-37)
Concern for the Poor:
 - Jesus — *What you have done to one of these little ones,
you have done unto Me!* (Mt 25:40)
“God of the Poor!”
 - Mother Teresa’s constant motivation —
“What I do to the helpless and the suffering
is what I do to God!”
- **Extravagant Offering**
Two examples:
 - A man who was childless till his old age
Abraham: Gen 22:5 ... “*worship*”
 - A woman who was childless for long
Hannah: 1 Sam 1:27,28 ... “*lent ... worshipped*”It was after this act the profound and prophetic song
flowed out of her soul (1 Sam 2:1-10).
Think of something that’s precious to you ...
May be a jewelry ... property ... career ... comfort ... etc.

For Mary it was a perfume costing one year's earnings!
— not *waste*, but worship!
Jesus enjoyed the fragrance of that offering! (Mt 26:6-13)

■ **Patient Suffering**

1 Pet 4:14 ... *reproached for Christ ... God glorified*
That's why Paul & Silas, while beaten & imprisoned,
started singing to the Lord— Acts 16:23-25

Turn worry into worship
Turn prison into praise
Turn chains into cymbals

Some of the best hymns of praise were born
when saints were bedridden —

eg) Amy Carmichael of Dohnavur Fellowship (1861-1951)
Bedridden for over 20 years due to a fall.
So many poems she wrote during this period.

One poem:

*"One thing have I desired, my God, of Thee;
That will I seek: Thine house home to me!"*

This was the song played by the Church bells
announcing her death in 1951.

The world curses God when it suffers.
True saints bless God when they suffer.
eg) Job's wife vs. Job (Job 1:20,21; 2:9)

■ **Regular Duties**

Col 3:16 ... *Word of Christ ... singing*
:17 ... *word ... deed ...*

Sunday vs. Monday thru Saturday
Turning work into worship!

■ **Conclusion**

I was looking for a quote which would summarize
all that we have studied under these 10 lessons —

I found it in the writings of Bishop William Temple
(1881-1944)—

True worship will —

- a) quicken the **conscience** by the **Holiness** of God
- b) feed the **mind** with the **Truth** of God
- c) purge the **imagination** by the **Beauty** of God
- d) open the **heart** to the **Love** of God
- e) devote the **will** to the **Purpose** of God
 - i.e. “Everything of ourselves to become
Everything of Himself!”

This is the meaning of what the Psalmist said:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul...

All that’s within me, bless His Holy Name!

(Psa 103:1)
