

Rom. 14:19  
So then let us  
follow after  
things which  
make for  
peace, and  
things  
whereby we  
may edify one  
another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anna Surface 2010

John 8:32 And  
ye shall  
know the  
truth and the  
truth shall  
make you  
free.

August  
18  
2019

## WHY DO WE WORSHIP GOD?

by Jim Stauffer

*“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.*

*Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” (Psalm 90:1–2)*

*“It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;*

*To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night,” (Psalm 92:1–2)*

God created man in His own image and looked upon His creation and pronounced it good (**Gen. 1:26-31**). But man did not remain as created by God but yielded to the temptation Satan placed before him and was as a result separated from God by his sin (**Isa. 59:1,2**). The very first consideration for worship of God is simply that He is my Creator and without Him I would not be.

God’s relationship with man did not end at that juncture. His love for His creation was such that He planned *before the foundation of the world that we would be holy and blameless before Him.* (**Eph. 1:4**) The plan for our redemption from our sin was through the shedding of the blood of His only Son, the Christ (**1 Pet. 1:18,19; John 3:16**)

It is said of Jesus, *“who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:6–8)*

Obviously this speaks to the love of God. A love John says is the very nature of God (**1 John 4:8**). We now view a God who created us out of love and was willing to recreate us spiritually after our fall to sin (**2 Cor. 5:17-19**). He sent His Son to die for every man since we now know all men have sinned and fallen short of His glory (**2 Cor. 5:14,15; Rom. 3:23**).

It is then that those who are separated from God by their sin are condemned to an eternal death (**John 5:28,29**). But this merciful act of God and Christ has restored our relationship with Him and made us alive again in the spirit (**Eph. 2:4-7; Rom. 6:3-7**). We have by the process of His sacrifice and our obedience to His commands been, *rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* (**Col. 1:13,14**) The Hebrew writer words it this way, *“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” (Hebrews 2:14–15)*

Then, why do I worship God? Why do I show reverence to the One Who first created me and then restored me to life in Christ? To ask this question is to fail to recognize our own being as created by Him. Why do I love my earthly parents? Why do I often drop what I am doing to show my love for them in any time of need they may have? Because they gave me life on earth through the process created by my God. Because they loved me and cared for me when I could not care for myself. They did so through great sacrifice on their part. Through this physical relationship I recognize my spiritual being similarly. God cared for me when I could not care for myself. He redeemed me from sin, a process beyond my power. He did so with great sacrifice on His part. He now promises me an eternal inheritance if I am faithful unto death.

Truly I can say, *“See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” (1 John 3:1)*

For these reasons I worship my God and Father and that worship prevails over everything else in my life.

## WORSHIP “IN SPIRIT”

by L.A. Stauffer

A conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman focused on the elements of true worship (**John 4:19-26**). In it Jesus made clear that the geographical “place” of worship, whether in Jerusalem or Mt. Gerizim, was unimportant. He did stress, however, that “*true worshippers*” will worship “*God*,” and they will worship him in “*spirit*” and “*truth*.” “*God*,” he notes, is the object of worship and “*him only shalt thou serve*” (**Matt 4:10**); “*truth*” denotes the content of worship—for “*in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men*” (**Matt 15:8**); and “*spirit*” describes the character of the worshipper. But what exactly does “*in spirit*” mean?

It refers, first of all, to the nature of man. God, Jesus says, is a Spirit and man, Moses says, is made in image of God (**John 4:24; Gen 1:26**). Spirits do not have flesh and bones, so the likeness of man to God is not the body (**see Luke 24:39**). But man in addition to a body has a spirit or soul and that explains his likeness to God (**see Matt 10:28; James 2:26**).

Man’s worship of God “*in spirit*,” thus, emanates as an expression of the inward man (**see 2 Cor 4:16; Eph 3:16**). It is this “*spirit*” of worship that is described by the biblical words translated “*worship*” in the New Testament: *sebomai*, *proskuneo*, and *latreuo*.

*Sebo* or *sebomai* means “to revere” and denotes piety, godliness, and devoutness. These terms describe the awe and adoration that must fill a man’s soul when he genuinely addresses God in worship. *Proskuneo* or *proskunetes* actually means “to kiss the hand (toward) one, in token of reverence” as a spirit-filled expression of honor and devotion and obeisance. *Latreuo*, which means “to serve” or “to render religious service,” is to be a “*spiritual*” or “*reasonable*” service—one that comes from “reason,” the “mind,” or “heart” of man (**Rom 12:1**).

Trees, animals, stars, the sun, the earth—all creation serves God’s will and displays his handiwork and design. But only man, of all earthly creation, can offer “heart-felt,” “spiritual” worship and service to God. Man’s unique likeness to God enables him and God requires him: (1) to love God with all his *heart, soul, and mind*; (2) to obey from the *heart* the form of doctrine to which he is delivered; (3) to sing and make melody in his *heart*; (4) to give as he purposes in his *heart*; (5) to discern in the *heart* the body and blood of the Lord; (6) to exercise the *mind* and *senses* to discern good and evil; etc. (**see Matt 22:37; Rom 6:17; Eph 5:19; 2 Cor. 9:7; Rom 10:1; 1 Cor 11:26; Heb 5:13-14**).

Jesus emphasized this in his strong indictments of Pharisaic hypocrisy. Pharisees prayed, gave alms, and fasted with great fanfare—but merely to be seen of men (**see Matt 6:1-18**). Jesus rebuked their heartless, formalistic worship and service in unmistakable words: *This people honor me with their lips; but their heart is*

*far from me*” (**Matt 15:8**).

Man is the crowning glory of God’s earthly creation and with it comes responsibility. Man must not act robotically or heartlessly. He is crafted distinctly by God as a rational, spiritual being who is to respond to God’s will out of a reverent heart toward God’s very person and being. Man is expected to know God, extol his worthiness, and worship Him. Man is required to know the truth, respect God’s teaching, and worship heartily. But where must this worship be offered? In Mt. Gerizim as practiced by the Samaritans? At Jerusalem according to the ancient practice of the Jews? In a temple or cathedral? No! None of these. It must be “*in spirit*,” as Jesus told the Samaritan woman. Man must worship God in his heart, from the depth of his soul, out of the sanctuary of a holy spirit. Geographical location is immaterial when true worshippers from the depth of their being “*offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe*” (**Heb 12:28**).

### Examine Your Attitude Toward Worship

My attitude toward worship depends upon four things: (1) my attitude toward God, (2) my concept of God, (3) my courage to examine and change my life (repent), and (4) my understanding of the essence of worship. **MY ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD** should be based on my conviction that *He “is,” and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him* (**Heb. 11:6**). This kind of faith can produce the good attitude of godly fear, and “*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge ...*” (**Prov. 1:7**). God is absolutely holy, absolutely perfect, and absolutely wise. He is grieved by evil, He loves man and wants me to love and obey Him. All of this should move me and cause me to want to be true to Him all the days of my life. My attitude toward God should be as expressed by the heavenly hosts: “*Worthy are thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created,*” (**Rev. 4:11**).

**MY CONCEPT OF GOD** should be in keeping with His revelation of Himself in nature and in Scripture (**Psalms 19; Jno. 1:18**). There is scarcely any error in doctrine or behavior that cannot be traced, ultimately, to an incomplete or incorrect concept of deity. What I think about God matters, and the incarnate Christ demonstrates the fundamental nature and attributes of God; belief in Christ, therefore, becomes crucial to my concept of God. My attitude toward and concept of God must be determined by the message of His Word & His Son.

**MY COURAGE TO EXAMINE AND CHANGE MY LIFE** will cause me to constantly monitor my thoughts and

deeds to insure my life is consistent with the Lord's will. In reference to worship, I will want to meditate, pray, study and plan my whole life so that God is praised and exalted. And, I will want to take advantage of every opportunity to join with God's people to worship Him according to His instructions. Worship will be a habit of life, but not in the sense of an empty ritual. Worship will spring from a heart where God dwells. As I examine myself and monitor my life, I'll want my worship (private or collective) to be accompanied by joy, but without any confidence in the flesh (**Phil. 3:3**). Worship will be a part of a whole life that is directed toward God and His Son.

### **BUT WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF WORSHIP?**

**Psalms 96** affords us a good view of what worship is. The passage is about the greatness and majesty of God: *"...the Lord is great ... He is to be feared above all gods ... Honor and majesty are before Him ... strength and beauty are in His sanctuary."* But the text is also about the appropriate human response to God's greatness: *"Sing to the Lord ... Proclaim the good news ... Declare His glory ... Give to the Lord ..."*

Once I become acquainted with the God who made me, I should want to express my reverence for Him. Worship is part of my total response to WHO GOD IS, and WHAT HE MEANS TO ME. And just as God is light - therefore I should walk in the light (**1 Jno. 1:5-7**); God is spirit - therefore I should want to worship Him in spirit and in truth (**Jno. 4:24**). The existence of God and the glory due His name is the very basis of worship (**2 Chron. 7:3**).

Examining My Attitude:

1. Do I really love God?
2. Do I really want to worship Him?
3. Am I a participant in collective worship, or a spectator?
4. Does my worship spring from a heart of genuine reverence?
5. Am I careful to follow God's instructions in my worship?
6. Do I avoid causing or focusing on distractions?

"Like faith and works (**Jas. 2**) or love and obedience (**John 14:15**), true worship must involve both the inward and outward response of the believer," (Dan Petty, FC Lectures, 1990, p.#110).

**Warren E. Berkley**

## **The Scriptures Reveal a Logical God**

I made the opening statement last week that many who openly profess to believe in God and the Bible have turned their backs on "logic", if not openly then implicitly. Not all, but many. My new acquaintance I mentioned last week is well educated and successful and has certainly NOT turned his back on logical use of the scriptures, but he had unwittingly swallowed the illogical assertion that

he could not PROVE that the God of the Bible exists. Check out the "Warren-Flew Debate on the Existence of God" for more information on this subject.

Simply put, if something now exists (which is self-evident) then something must have always existed. It cannot be the universe as even scientists have conceded that fact by their discussion of the Big Bang Theory of beginnings. What existed before the Big Bang? It wasn't the universe we now know since the Second Law of Thermodynamics (a logical deduction of science) applied universe wide dictates that the universe had a beginning! It had to be something outside of the laws of physics which rules out energy and matter which both are subject to the laws of this universe. That leaves only the spiritual realm - in other words - God, specifically the God of the Bible.

The study of nature just screams out the logical nature of her creator. In biology and ecology there is the logic of recycling, nothing is wasted, as Jesus taught in **John 6:12**, *"Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."* In Mathematics there are theorems and proofs that are used every day in every field of endeavor where mathematics plays a part, in other words most everything!

If you want to turn off your brain, do so at Six-Flags, not church!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

To worship God is to recognize his worth or worthiness; to look God-ward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the value of what we see. The Bible calls this activity "glorifying God" or "giving glory to God," and views it as the ultimate end, and from one point of view, the whole duty of man (**Ps. 29:2; 96:6; 1 Cor. 10:31**).

Scripture views the glorifying of God as a sixfold activity: praising God for all that he is and all his achievements; thanking him for his gifts and his goodness to us; asking him to meet our own and others' needs; offering him our gifts, our service, and ourselves; learning of him from his word, read and preached, and obeying his voice; telling others of his worth, both by public confession and testimony to what he has done for us. Thus we might say that the basic formulas of worship are these: "Lord, you are wonderful"; "Thank you, Lord"; "Please Lord"; "Take this, Lord"; "Yes, Lord"; "Listen everybody!"

This then is worship in its largest sense: petition as well as praise, preaching as well as prayer, hearing as well as speaking, actions as well as words, obeying as well as offering, loving people as well as loving God. However, the primary acts of worship are those which focus on God directly -- and we must not imagine that work for God in the world is a substitute for direct fellowship with him in praise and prayer and devotion.

**James Packer, Your Father Loves You, Harold Shaw Publishers, July 1986, P. 15.**

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Casey Dent**

**Joe Hurd**

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**Check out the following websites:**

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

### NEWS AND NOTES: SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER,  
STEVE WIMP, LINDIA JACKSON AND  
TRUDY MULLEN.

SUZANNE WIMP IS IN SHAWNEE PARC,  
ROOM 118

**BIBLE CLASSES - SUNDAY -**  
STUDY OF AUTHORITY - TEACHER  
BILL MILLER

**WEDNESDAY - 1&2 TIMOTHY**  
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**SERMON:**

PRESS ON TO MATURITY



## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10