

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #6

S#1.

Worshipping the God Who Is?

S#2.

Text : **I Cor. 8: 4-6 ; Rom. 1: 18-24 ; Rom. 2: 12-16**

A. For the past few lessons we have been studying the concept of personal worship.

1. Personal worship is also referred to by some as one's "devotions."
2. Key to our observations has been to acknowledge that daily times of personal worship are essential to Christian maturity and to the building of one's relationship with God.
3. Though practiced for millennia, there is no set of guidelines for personal worship.
 - a. Meditation is involved in most worship. (*Jews had a morning ritual.*)
 - b. Prayer is part of all worship. (*Prayer is talking to God.*)
 - c. The scriptures are also involved in both public and private worship.

B. Therefore, (Lord willing) we are going to start a series of lessons designed to demonstrate topics that lend themselves to personal worship.

S#3.

1. What is the most obvious pre-requisite to any worship of God ?
2. Before one can truly worship God, one must have unquestioned faith that He is.
Heb. 11: 6 – And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

S#4.

C. Therefore, we will start off researching the existence of God.

S#5.

1. Reasons some don't believe
2. Different views of God
3. Reasons to believe in God
4. What the bible says about God

I. Five reasons why some don't believe in God.

S#6.

A. The scriptures tell us :

1. **Psa. 14: 1 & 53: 1** – The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
2. Did you ever doubt there is a God?
 - a. When asked that in a bible class, a sister got very angry when I said no.
 - b. She thought that I was lying because she thought everyone had had doubts.
 - c. I was raised believing, **but** I never made a decision or had proofs.

S#7.

3. If an unbeliever asks you “*Why do you believe?*”
 - a. If you say, “That’s the way I was brought up.”
 - b. His response will be, “But I was brought up believing there is no God.”

B. The atheist must consider, “What is the alternative to God?”

S#8.

1. The only alternative is that there is ... nothing.
2. One can’t cling to “*nothing*”, but that’s what the atheists want our end to be.
3. Quote from the atheistic website www.naturalism.org

“We are evolved products of natural selection which operates without intension, foresight or purpose On a scientific understanding of ourselves there is no evidence for immaterial souls, spirits, mental essences or disembodied selves which stand apart from the physical world.”
4. In other words, when one is dead it’s all over for him. (*They wish this were true.*)
5. Atheism is a faith which is harder to believe than theism.

S#9.

C. There are at least 5 reasons some don’t believe in God.

S#10.

1. They don’t believe the bible.

S#11.

 - a. The bible assumes God to exist and to be the all-powerful creator.

Gen. 1: 1 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **S#12.**
 - b. The bible claims to be the words of this all-powerful creator.

II Tim. 3: 16 – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - c. The bible reveals God / Jesus the man.

John 5: 39 – You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; **40** and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. **S#13.**
 - d. One can only come to have faith by hearing (reading, studying) the scriptures.

Rom. 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
2. They “suppress the truth.” (*They purge it from their minds.*) **S#14.**
 - a. **Rom. 1: 18** – For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. **S#15.**

- b. **Rom. 1: 24** – Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to **S#16.**
impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.
25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.
- 3. They don't want to believe because they fear accountability. **S#17.**
 - a. **Rom. 1: 28** – And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any **S#18.**
longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, **32**
and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.
 - b. They fear being judged by a just God.
Rom. 2: 12 – For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish **S#19.**
without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law;
- 4. They like their lifestyle and don't want to change. (**Judg 17:6** .. in own eyes) **S#20.**
 - a. If they accept God He is a power higher than them to which they must yield.
 - b. If God exists, **He** can and He will set the standard and enforce it.
- 5. They reject God because they can't explain Him. (cf- **Isa. 55: 8-9**) **S#21.**
 - a. How can an eternal being who is infinite in all His attributes exist? (*Finite minds*)
 - b. How can three be one? (*It can't even be illustrated.*)

II. There are at least seven (7) different views of God. **S#22.**

- A. "Atheism" the claim that there is no God. **S#23.**
- B. "Agnosticism" does not claim to know if any gods exist or not.
- C. "Pantheism" is worship that admits or tolerates all gods.
- D. "Polytheism" the belief in many gods. (*Hindu, Taoism, Confucianism*)
- E. "Deism" the belief in the existence of a supreme being, specifically of a creator who does not intervene in the universe.
- F. "Animism" the belief in a supernatural power that organizes and animates the material universe.
- G. "Monotheism" the belief that there is only one God. (*Christianity, Judaism, Islam*)

III. Four evidences for the existence of God.**S#24.****A. Intelligent design****S#25.**

1. The world exists. **Therefore**, there is a world maker.
 - a. When we see a car we know there is a carmaker. (*Not an explosion in a factory.*)
 - b. The Holy Spirit made this argument for God.

Rom. 1: 20 – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
2. The great expanse of the universe bears witness to their creator.

Psa. 19: 1 – The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

S#26.**B. Personality****S#27.**

1. Life creates life -- Personality creates personality

Gen. 2: 27 – God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
2. We are the sons of one with personality, so we should have personality.
 - a. **Acts 17: 29** – Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, ...
 - b. Personality will not develop in some slim that oozes from the sea and evolved.

S#28.**C. Conscience and morality****S#29.**

1. All men have a sense of right and wrong. (*even remote tribesmen*)
2. Only man feels bound by ethics and demands justice for violations endured.
3. It is God who has written this sense of right and wrong on the hearts of man.

Rom. 2: 14 – For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, **15** in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, **16** on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

D. Worship**S#30.**

1. All people throughout history have worshipped something.
(*Archeologist and Anthropologist have never discovered a culture that did not worship.*)
2. Only man worships
3. Supposed atheists worship things ... science, possessions, movie or sports stars.

* In the 4th century Augustine wrote :

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

IV. What does the bible say about the existence of God.

S#31.

A. The bible assumes that God exists.

1. **Gen. 1: 1** – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. S#32.
2. The bible declares that man has a relationship with God based on faith.
Heb. 11: 6 – And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

B. In the bible God identifies Himself as the eternally existent one.

1. **Exod. 3: 13** – Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" S#33.
2. "I AM" Related to the name of God, YHWH, rendered LORD, which is derived from the verb HAYAH, *to be*. S#34.
Thus, the God who is in a perpetual state of being.

C. The bible declares that God's existence is evident to everyone.

1. **Rom. 1: 19** – because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. S#35.
2. God has placed the awareness of Him into every person and given creation as proof.
3. Thus, anyone who does not believe in God has trained himself to be an unbeliever.

D. God is declared in the historical person of Jesus.

1. **Heb. 1: 1-3** – God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, ... **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and ... S#36.
2. **John 14: 7** – If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; **8** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; ... S#37.

CONCLUSION : We observed :**A. Five (5) reasons some don't believe in God.****S#38.**

1. They don't believe the bible.
2. They “**suppress the truth.**” (*They purge the knowledge from their minds.*)
3. They do not want to believe because they fear accountability.
4. They like their lifestyle and don't want to change.
5. They can't explain God so they reject Him.

B. Seven (7) different concepts of God.

1. “Atheism” the claim that there is no God.
2. “Agnosticism” I don't know; maybe, maybe not.
3. “Pantheism” worship that tolerates all gods.
4. “Polytheism” the belief in many gods. (*Hindu, Taoism, Confucianism*)
5. “Deism” a creator who does not intervene in the universe.
6. “Animism” spirits in all things which animates the material world
7. “Monotheism” the belief that there is only one God. (*Christians, Jews, Muslims*)

C. Four (4) evidences for the existence of God.

1. Intelligent design ... Creation demands a creator (reverse = existence demand source)
2. Personality ... personality demands a source of personality. (It can't evolve.)
3. Conscience and morality ... Only God instills a sense of right and wrong
4. Worship ... All people worship (Why ?)

D. The bible is the only true knowledge of God.

1. God is so obvious, the bible assumes His existence.
2. God identifies Himself as The Eternally Existent One. (*No time to exegete Job 38-40*)
3. God places the knowledge of Himself in everyone and proves it by creation.
4. God presents Himself to the world in the person of Jesus.

E. *Psa. 14: 1* & *53: 1* – The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."**S#39.****S#40.**

There is no greater topic for one's personal worship than the existent God.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 8: 4-6**

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

Romans 1: 18-24

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

Romans 2: 12-16

12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; 13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.