

## **Are You A True Worshipper of the Father?**

“And I John am he that heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel that showed me these things. And he saith unto me, See thou do it not: I am a fellow-servant with thee and with thy brethren the prophets, and with them that keep the words of this book: worship God” (Revelation 22:9).

What a notable event that would elicit just such a response from most men as it did from John! What would you do in the presence of an angel of Jehovah?

Our interest in this text is to consider the last statement of the angel: “worship God.” Worship defined is “to make obeisance, do reverence to.” Of these terms, obeisance is “deferential respect, i.e., making a distinction between other(s).” Reverence is “lit., "to turn in" (i.e., upon oneself), "to put to shame," denotes, when used in the Passive Voice, "to feel respect for, to show deference to, to reverence” (Vine’s).

The etymology of the English term “worship” is a “condition of being worthy,” or, worth-ship, thus denotes a sense of “reverence paid to a supernatural or divine being.” The term “divine” was used by Peter in describing the powers of God, saying, “his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3), and the Greek term for divine, translated “God,” is the term Paul used while in Athens, saying, “Being then the offspring of God,” “Or., that which is divine” (Acts 17:29).

Worship has varied meanings to the mind of man: individuals have a tendency to make up their own definition. Nevertheless, worship, as in our text, belongs to God: deity, the supreme Divinity. Supreme Divinity is not just any supernatural being, which is defined as, “that which is not subject to the laws of physics or, more figuratively, that which is said to exist above and beyond nature,” but to God the Father. Jesus said, “the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

So, what does it mean to “worship” God? When Jesus was being tempted of the devil, it is said, “and he (Satan) said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence,

Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:9-10): two descriptive terms, worship and serve. When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, he said, “for that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever” (Romans 1:25): two descriptive terms, worshipped and served; When the Apostle Paul was in the city of Athens, as recorded in Acts 17:23-25, he said concerning, “What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. The God that made the world, (vs. 23-24), “...neither is he served by men’s hands” (vs. 25): two descriptive terms, worship and served. And Jesus, quoting the Prophet Isaiah, said, “But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men:” two descriptive terms, worship and teaching. You see, worship requires action, and the chosen action determines who it is that’s being worshiped.

Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, saying, “Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:16-18). Can you lay claim to this? ret