

## HOW TO GLORIFY GOD

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. 5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: 6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Old Testament the children of God needed to keep their attention on one very important aspect of life; that aspect continues to be important for us today ... Ex.20:3 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* Jesus quoted Dt. 6:13 (Mt. 4:10) to the devil, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

It is not easy to always obey this Biblical command to glorify God. Paul confessed, Rom. 7: 22 *I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.* He said, “It is *really* what I want to do, - to glorify God, - but what I constantly find is that there’s a battle going on for my attentions; it’s a battle warring inside me because of sin”.

We all know what he meant; he continued, Rom. 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.* He actively, consciously wanted to glorify God.

I don’t want to make excuses for our sinning but there is genuinely this constant battle going on in our hearts and minds to *want* to be faithful but there are so many obstacles hindering our way ..., Rom. 7:14 *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

This of course is a mighty subject, - the subject of *Religious Worship, and the Lord’s Day* and we cannot hope to study in this evening in depth but I would want us to consider it using three simple headings (Rom. 15:4-6), - **The Word, The Walk, The Worship.**

### THE WORD

whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

- \* As our *Confession* expresses the Word is central to our worship. Our worship is based upon the Word. The Word is fundamental to how we seek God's face.
- \* Some people say, "I have my own way I worship God". If it doesn't match what the Scriptures say, - you can call it whatever you like but it is not worship the way God has describes it (cf. *Confession, para 1*).
  - \* Old Testament Israel on the Sabbath 'worshipped' in the temple; some of the other days they worshiped on the high hills and in the places of idolatry.
  - \* The Pharisee in the temple 'worshipped' with his hands raised into the air and told God, - "I'm glad I'm so good and I'm not like that old tax-collector over there!"
  - \* Amos was preaching in Bethel and Amaziah the priest didn't like what he was hearing. Amaziah said to him, [Amos 7:12 O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: 13 But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.](#) Amaziah was a stranger to the true worship of God.
- \* Another prophet, Isaiah, taught his disciples, [8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.](#)
- \* Just before he left Ephesus he called the elders of the church together for he knew it would probably be the last time he would see them before he would be arrested in Jerusalem; he said to them, [Acts 20: 32 now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.](#)
- \* What does the Word say about how to worship?
  1. When Saul returned from his campaign against the Amalekites he hadn't totally obeyed the command of God, - he had been selective in his obedience (he brought back their animals and also their king).
    - \* He was on his knees begging before Samuel, [I Sam. 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.](#)
  - \* You see, confession is worship; here we see how closely the Word of God sets out pardon for sin and worship.
  - \* John, the disciple whom Jesus loved wrote, [I Jn. 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned,](#)

we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. Confession is part of worship. God won't drink from dirty vessels.

2. Again the Word in the Epistle to the Hebrews tells us that **faith** is also necessary for worship, [Heb. 11:6 without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.](#)

\* There is no point coming to a service of worship without faith, for through faith we set out to be in touch with God, as a body of His people together; we believe we have His presence amongst us, - we have *faith* we are met in His Name.

\* By faith we believe [Mt. 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.](#) I know He is here amongst us because He has promised to meet with His people.

\* How to glorify God? When I come before Him I confess my sin so there is no barrier between Him and me, - that all my sin has been dealt with and 'the lines of communication' are open.

\* I glorify Him also through believing His Word that says I can come [boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.](#)

3. And I also seek to glorify Him through **obedience**. [Songs. 2:4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.](#) At His invitation we enter His glorious presence.

\* Some folk wrongly think, - and I believe they will be judged for it, - "I'll come and worship you God when I have the time to come. I can't always promise I'll be at the prayer meeting. I can't always promise I'll be at the services. I'll get to You when I can!"

\* King Saul put up to be worshipping God when he returned disobedient from the country of the Amalekites ... Samuel saw through his deceit, [I Sam. 15:22 Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.](#)

\* Paul also wrote to the church, instructing them, [whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. ... \*\*The Word\*\* ...](#)

## THE WALK

[Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus](#)

\* The church in Rome consisted of both Jews and Gentiles. Now ... Jews weren't all that good at mixing with Gentiles, - they did it in so far as it would be to their advantage. Otherwise, relationships with Gentiles would be kept at a distance.

\* Think what this church would have had to go through.

- \* The Jews had their traditions and history of which they were proud; they had their ways of doing things and didn't like the outsiders to interfere.
- \* The Gentiles also had the way they were brought up, - their values, their backgrounds, their customs.
- \* And then also there were the slaves and their masters.
- \* There were those too who would eat meat and there were those who were vegetarian.
- \* There were all these groups of different people and often they saw things very differently.
- \* And yet Paul charges them [Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus.](#)
- \* Paul is now building upon what he told them about **the Word**; he is telling them about **the walk**.
- \* The Psalmist combined these two thoughts together, [Ps. 119:1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who \*\*walk in the law of the LORD\*\*. 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.](#)
- \* Again, the Psalmist talks about **the walk**, [15:1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 4 ... but he honoureth them that fear the LORD.](#)
- \* In the same way Paul tells them to be likeminded. We considered the subject of *Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience*, so what we are thinking about here is our **walk** together as believers for the sake and glory of the Name of Christ and how each individual believer has the personal responsibility and duty to maintain the *common* foundations of our faith and [be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus.](#)
- \* They had the potential in this church at Rome to start all types of rows and arguments but because of **the walk** with Christ that each of them professed – for His Name and for His glory – they were commanded [to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus. ... \*\*The Word ... The Walk ...\*\*](#)

## THE WORSHIP

That ye may with one mind and one mouth [glorify God](#), even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- \* [one mind and one mouth.](#) Paul is emphasising here. Jesus said, [Mt. 15:18 those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart.](#)

- \* What comes from the mind is an indication of what is in the heart; what comes from the mouth also shows the condition of the heart.
- \* If you have a right and proper understanding of **the Word** you will want to live in obedience to **the walk** ... then God will accept **the worship**.
- \* Worship is how we live before God and true worship is how we live out our obedience to His Word.
- \* The children of Israel ‘worshipped’ God but their ‘worship’ was tainted and stained with disobedience and was not unacceptable to Him because He judged it as being false.
- \* ... Something else Jesus said, [Mt. 21:16 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise.](#)
- \* Surely this is the secret of worship:
  - \* *Personal worship* when I as a child of God come before my Heavenly Father;
  - \* *Collective worship* along with my brothers and sisters in the faith when we are [Rom. 15:4 likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: 6 ... with one mind and one mouth glorify\[ing\] God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#)
- \* Worship is when God’s people come together and are concerned for the sake and glory of His Name.

## CONCLUSION.

- \* *How to glorify God.* This subject of ‘worship’ is one of the most important subjects we can study.
- \* Worshipping God is a privilege!
- \* When you love someone you want to spend as much time as you can in their presence, ... that goes for the Christian and his Saviour as well.
- \* Here again, - in these three verses, - are these simple *but fundamental* thoughts regarding worship, and indeed the privilege we have each Lord’s Day together,
 

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