

Introduction

- Britney Spears latest incident.
- More than looking up to an individual; it tends toward worship.

What is Worship?

- Dictionary definitions:
 - Reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred.
 - The formal or ceremonious rendering of such honor and homage (e.g. – Sabbath Services).
 - To feel an adoring reverence or regard for any person or thing):
 - American Idol.
 - Beatles.
 - Elvis.
 - Frank Sinatra.
- There's a big difference between looking up to someone and worshipping that person.

Proper Worship of God

- Worship is outward actions and deeds, along with what's inside.
- Many parts of our worship of God, both public and private:
 - Weekly Sabbath: **Exodus 20:8-11.**
 - Annual Holy Days: **Leviticus 23:1-8.**
 - Additional duties for the priests: **Leviticus 23:9-11.**
 - Prayer:
 - A heartfelt, genuine prayer gets God's attention:
 - Before battle: **II Kings 19:15-20.**

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- To prolong life: **II Kings 20:1-6.**
- Elijah raising the son of the widow: **I Kings 17:18-22.**
- Striking the sacrifice in front to the priests of Baal: **I Kings 18:30-38.**
- Elisha and the army of God against the Syrians: **II Kings 6:15-20.**
- Tithing:
 - Holy to God: **Leviticus 27:30.**
 - Instructed part of worship: **Deuteronomy 12:5-7.**
 - God wants us to prove that tithing works: **Malachi 3:8-10.**
- Obedience:
 - Carefully following God: **Deuteronomy 6:17.**
 - Why? God is jealous for our attention and obedience: **Exodus 20:3-6.**
- How most COG groups conduct their worship services.
- Difference in the application of worship over the focus of the worship.
- Solomon's prayer on knees with outstretched hands: **I Kings 8:54.**

We Are to Worship God Alone

- Don't worship objects of God's creation: **Deuteronomy 4:19, 11:16.**
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego would not worship a false idol: **Daniel 3:1-30.**
- Daniel did not alter his pattern of praying 3 times a day: **Daniel 6:1-28.**

- An angel did not allow John to worship him: **Revelation 22:8-9**.
- Satan tried to tempt Jesus: **Matthew 4:1-10**.
- Worship God with reverence and fear: **Psalms 5:7**.

How People Worship God

- People trying all sorts of things to please God; self punishment by whips, mock crucifixion, etc.
- Traditional Christianity:
 - Really a carryover of Mithraism, which is a carryover of previous religions.
 - Christmas and the tree: **Jeremiah 10:3-5**.
 - Easter – We are not to focus on His resurrection, but His death: **I Corinthians 11:24-26**.
 - Catholic Mass:
 - Idol of a Christ on a stick – direct violation!
 - 14 Stations of the Cross.
 - Rosary beads.
 - Mary worship (prayers for her intercession).
 - Halos – another symbol of the sun.
 - Sunday (day of the sun).
 - Worship of humans as a surrogate or mediator of God:
 - **Yesterday**: Saint Ansgar (Apostle of the North) – Scandinavia.
 - **Tomorrow**: Saint Blasé (martyred in Armenia).
 - **February 29th**: Saint Oswald.
 - Too many “feasts” – Just like having too many “taking in Christ” by the Eucharist.

- **Today:** Presentation of the Lord: (Simeon and Anna came to meet them): **Luke 2:22-15** (cf – **Leviticus 12**).
- Today is also Groundhog Day.
- Jeroboam's sin of changing the FOT for political expedience: **I Kings 12:26-33**.

Why Do People Not Obey

- Compromise – the biggest problem! God is very specific! **Matthew 7:13-14**.
- People may have a zeal for God, but not for His righteousness: **Romans 10:1-4**.
- God instructs us to not learn the ways of the Gentiles: **Jeremiah 10:2**.
- Do not add or delete from what God commands: **Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32**.
- Things have not changed with Christ's arrival: **Matthew 5:17-18**.
- All scripture is inspired (a reference to the OT): **II Timothy 3:14-17**.
- What about the sacrifices?
 - Christ is the ultimate sacrifice for us.
 - We are to be a living sacrifice: **Romans 12:1**.
 - Animal sacrifices will resume later, in the Millennium: **Ezekiel 44:10-12**.
- Thanksgiving: **Psalms 107:21-22, 116:16-17, Philippians 4:6**.
- Man believes they can do it their way rather than god's way: **Mark 7:7-9, 13**.
 - NOT acceptable to God!

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- Think of Cain (grain sacrifice) and Abel (animal sacrifice): **Genesis 4:1-7.**

Conclusion

- Follow the Bible as our guide.
- We love Jesus by obeying His commandments: **John 14:15, 15:9-10, I John 2:3-4, 5:3.**
- Don't add to it or take away from it: **Deuteronomy 12:29-32, Revelation 22:18-19.**
 - Moloch worship.
 - Dolls – the real meaning.
- We are given the freedom to worship God within the specification He gives us in the Bible.
- Praise music and singing are example of how we can worship Him, but make sure the focus is on Him.
- A way that seems right to man: **Proverbs 14:12.**
- Vain worship: **Matthew 15:9.**
- God's word is truth and cannot be broken! **Psalms 119:160.**