

Guidelines for Christian Worship  
(Psalm 29:2)

Introduction:

1. Last week we began a series of lessons on "worship."
2. Our lessons are designed to help us be the "true worshippers" that Jesus talked about in John 4:23.
3. The Bible reveals numerous guidelines that relate to true worship.
4. For example, in Psalm 29:2 David gave 2 important guidelines:
  - a. *"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name."*
  - b. *"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*
5. Since worship is such an important activity, in our lesson we are considering several "guidelines for Christian worship."

Discussion:

- I. IN JOHN 4:23-24 JESUS GAVE 3 GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP
  - A. First, worship is to be directed to the Father.
    1. Jesus also emphasized this guideline in Matthew 4:10.
    2. Worship is not to be directed to the objects in the sky, nature, idols and images, people, angels, and Satan.
  - B. Second, the Father is to be worshipped *"in spirit"* [with the proper attitude and disposition].
  - C. Third, the Father is to be worshipped *"in truth"* [according to the Lord's instructions in the New Testament].
  - D. This third point made by Christ leads us to our next guideline.
- II. GOD IS NO LONGER TO BE WORSHIPPED ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES
  - A. The Law of Moses has been taken out of the way (Colossians 2:14).
  - B. The holy days of the Law of Moses are no longer in effect (Colossians 2:16-17).
  - C. Those who follow the Law of Moses have fallen from grace (Galatians 5:4).
  - D. At one time, Moses was God's spokesman; however, Jesus now occupies that position (Hebrews 1:1-2).
  - E. To please God, we must listen to Christ (Matthew 17:5; Colossians 3:16-17).
    1. Christ's Word is the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15).
    2. Those who follow the Lord's law will be blessed (James 1:25).
    3. The Lord's law is not to be altered (Revelation 22:18-19).
  - F. Another guideline relates to the time of worship.
- III. THE NEW TESTAMENT RECOGNIZES THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK AS "THE LORD'S DAY"
  - A. Some special events pertaining to Christianity occurred on the first day of the week.
    1. Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week (Luke 24:1-3).
    2. The church was established on the first day of the week (Acts 2).
  - B. Early Christians ate the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
  - C. Christians are to give on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
  - D. John mentioned *"the Lord's day"* in Revelation 1:10.
  - E. Although God's people are to assemble for worship on the Lord's day, we may also assemble *"daily"* for instruction and devotion (Acts 2:42, 46a).

Conclusion:

1. Worshipping God is a special blessing for His children, but it is also a serious responsibility.
2. As we seek to follow the guidelines for Christian worship, let us apply David's instructions:
  - a. *"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name."*
  - b. *"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*