

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL

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The Basis:

The basis or foundation of New Testament worship is the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith.

- *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- *John 4:23*
- *Hebrews 9:12*
- *Hebrews 9:24-26*

The Object:

The object of our worship is Christ.

- *Colossians 1:15-20*
- *Hebrews 1:1-3*

The Purpose:

1. It is commanded.
 - *Psalm 117:1-2*
 - *Psalm 96*
 - *Psalm 150:6*

2. To celebrate and testify about Jesus.
 - *1 Peter 2:9*

3. To instruct, strengthen and encourage.
 - *1 Corinthians 14:26*
 - *Colossians 3:16*

4. To herald Jesus' return.
 - *Revelation 22:17, 20*

The Goal:

Through greater intimacy and knowledge of Jesus, we grow in grace and we become more like Him and God the Father is glorified.

- *2 Corinthians 3:12-18*

Hindrances

1. Making worship itself the center.

- *Isaiah 29:13-14*

2. Overly magnifying the tools of worship, i.e. the songs, the technology, the experience, the environment.

3. Sinful attitudes.

4. A Spirit of heaviness.

- *Isaiah 61:1-3*

Quote: William Temple (1881-1944)

“Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin”.

Readings in St. John’s Gospel