

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Jesus tells us that *“the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him”* (John 4.23). From this passage, we learn that God desires worship that consists of two components. Our worship is to be with the right attitude, and we are to do things God specified in His word (cf. John 17.17). When we look into the Bible, there are five main acts of worship.

WE ARE TO PRAY. In Acts 2, people were being baptized and added to the Lord’s church. It was this gathering of saved people, the church, which began worshipping God (Acts 2.42). In this worship, they prayed together. Prayer in the Bible was never a prepared devotional that was memorized and repeated. Prayer in the Bible was just talking to God. When the church gathered together to worship, they prayed together.

WE ARE TO TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER. From Acts 2.42, we also learn that they broke bread. The idea of breaking bread in this context is remembering the death of Jesus by eating unleavened bread which signifies His body and drinking fruit of the vine (grape juice) which signifies His blood. Paul explains this in detail in 1 Corinthians 11.23ff. When the church came together, they partook of the Supper every first day of the week (Acts 20.7).

WE ARE TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED. Acts 2.42 tells us that they continued in the apostles’ doctrine. In other words, they heard the word of God proclaimed. When the church gathered together, the word of God was preached (Acts 20.7).

WE ARE TO SING. Other passages tell us that we are to sing songs together. This is not a performance. We are all to sing together. The instrument that we are to use is the heart (Eph. 5.19). It is one of the ways we teach each other (Col. 3.16). When the church gathered together to worship, they sang together.

WE ARE TO GIVE. In 1 Corinthians 16.1,2, the Lord’s church was commanded to give of their financial means. This is the way the church was to be funded. This passage tells us that all of us are to give. We are to give on the first day of the week, and we are to give based on how we have prospered.

The worship of the church was not left for man to determine based on his own preferences. God Himself has instructed us on the kind of worship He desires. It is only when we worship Him His way that our worship will be acceptable (Amos 5.21-24).

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS:
7:30 PM



THE LORD’S CHURCH

The Lord’s church is not a denomination but a group of people who have been saved. In Acts 2, the apostle Peter preached the first recorded gospel sermon. He told them to repent and be baptized, and thus, *“be saved from this perverse generation”* (Acts 2.38-40). Many in the audience responded to the gospel. In verse 41, we are told that *“those who gladly received his word were baptized and that day about three thousand souls were added to them”* (Acts 2.41). They were added to the number of people who were saved. Those saved people became the church. In the last verse of the chapter, we learn that *“the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”* (Acts 2.47).

Do I need to be a part of the Lord’s church to be saved? We are told in Ephesians 5.23 that *“Christ is the Savior of the body.”* What is the body? The answer is found in the first chapter of the book. There we learn that Christ is the *“head over all things to the church, which is His body”* (Eph. 1.22,23).

Jesus is the Savior of the church. That means that if you want to be saved, you must be a member of His church. You can become a member of the church when you respond to the gospel. When you do, God adds you to His church.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The gospel is defined by the apostle Paul in the first few verses of 1 Corinthians 15. It is there that Paul writes about the gospel “by which also you are saved” (1 Cor. 15.1,2). What is this gospel? If you keep reading, he explains: “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15.3,4). The gospel is the good news that we can be saved from our past sins and one day live eternally with God in heaven. All this was made possible because Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and then rose the third day.

The gospel isn't just good news. It also contains how we are to respond to this good news. There are commands that God has set in place that we must obey in order to be washed clean by the blood of Jesus. Paul explained that the Christians who lived in Rome “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine” (Rom. 6.17). Peter also taught that Christians have purified their souls “in obeying the truth” (1 Pet. 1.22). That truth is later described as “the gospel...preached to you” (1 Pet. 1.25). God has done His part. Jesus has done His part. What do we have to do in order to be saved by the grace of God and be cleansed by the blood of Christ?

TO BE SAVED, I AM TO HEAR THE GOSPEL. Without knowing about Jesus, or what I am to obey, there can be no salvation. The parable of the sower in Matthew 13.3-9,18-23 is about how people hear and are receptive to the gospel. Because you cannot be saved by the gospel if you never hear the gospel, God sends individuals out to share this good news with others (Rom. 10.14). There are some who hear the gospel by opening up the Bible and reading about it (Acts 17.11). There are some who hear the gospel because they hear a gospel sermon (Acts 10.33,34). Some hear the gospel because someone sits down with them and explains it (Acts 8.35). In order to be saved, you first have to hear.

TO BE SAVED, I AM TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas found themselves in jail in the city of Philippi. The Philippian jailer came to them and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16.30). Paul responded, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16.31). Jesus said Himself, “Therefore I said to you that you

will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8.24). To be saved, you must believe.

TO BE SAVED, I MUST REPENT OF MY PAST SINS. What does it mean to repent? Jesus said that “the men of Nineveh...repented at the preaching of Jonah” (Luke 11.32). If I go back to the book of Jonah, I can see what these men did. In the book of Jonah, it says that “they turned from their evil way” (Jonah 3.10). To repent is to stop doing the things that are sinful and start doing what is right. Peter tells us that the Lord is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3.9). Jesus Himself said, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13.3). To be saved, you must repent of your past sins.

TO BE SAVED, I MUST CONFESS THE NAME OF JESUS. Confession in the Bible as it relates to being saved is to verbally tell others that you believe in Jesus. I find an example of this with the Ethiopian Eunuch. After hearing the gospel, he verbally said to Philip, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8.37). The apostle Paul wrote that “if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10.9). Jesus Himself said, “whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God” (Luke 12.8).

TO BE SAVED, I MUST BE BAPTIZED. In response to the gospel sermon preached by Peter, his audience cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2.37). Peter did not respond by saying that you had to accept Jesus into your heart. Peter did not respond by saying that you had to say a sinner's prayer. Peter responded by saying to “repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2.38). The word “for” is the Greek word “eis.” It is a word that always looks forward to something that you do not yet have. Peter tells them that they need to repent and they need to be baptized in order to have the remission of sins. Jesus Himself said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16.16).

These five commands are essential. Every one of these commands must be obeyed in order to be saved. The Bible tells us that we are commanded to be baptized, and it is just as essential to being saved as is the command to believe. Repentance is just as important as confession. Have you obeyed the gospel? “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22.16).