

# WORSHIP - BELIEVERS EXPERIENCING GOD

Date: January 10

Introduction Session One: Worship – Believers Experiencing God

Scripture and Memory Verse: *Romans 12:1-2*

## Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to help a church corporately come to [unity](#) of heart and life in their understanding and experience of God's requirements and standards for [worship](#).<sup>1</sup>

## Key Point

So many in the church today are focused on reading about what everyone else in other churches or para-church organizations are doing in worship instead of [hearing](#) from God about what He wants for us personally. Our focus must turn to the [Bible](#) and allow the Holy Spirit to [lead](#) us and guide us in true worship.

## Knowing God's Standards

Do you know God's standards for worship? You cannot know God's standards for worship apart from what He [reveals](#) through in Holy Scriptures. When you know God's [standards](#) for worship and then in love, [obey](#) God's standards for worship, you bring Him glory and your life is [transformed](#).

## Only One Kind of Standards

Our focus Scripture from *Romans 12:1,2* clearly shows what kind of worship God is [looking](#) for. God inspired Paul to write His prescription for [authentic](#) worship in these passages:

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [\[dedicating all of yourselves, set apart\]](#) as a [living sacrifice](#), holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.*

*<sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].<sup>2</sup> *Romans 12:1,2 Amplified Bible**

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<sup>1</sup> Authors: Henry T. Blackaby & Ron Owens Publisher: LifeWay Church Resources 2001 pg.7

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+12&version=AMP>

This passage of Scripture shows us there is only one kind of worship that is acceptable to God.

## Key Point – Mankind’s Obsession

We must not let the world entice us into accepting a “grand [substitute](#)” that appeals to our flesh but does not please God. The [obsession](#) with being creative or innovative can lead to substituting for the real. In worship the criterion is never how people are responding to us but how [God](#) is responding to us. See examples of substitutional worship and the outcomes.<sup>3</sup> (*2 Chronicles 1-7; 1 Kings 18*)

## God’s Highest Agenda

God’s highest agenda is for His people to worship Him as He [instructs](#) them. (*John 4:24*) Likewise, Satan our evil adversary, seeks to [distract](#) us and draw our worship away from Almighty God and lure us into a deception which leads to worshipping him. Satan may use our traditions, flattery, accusations, fads, accolades, and popularity just to name a few. Satan studies mankind, he knows our weaknesses.

We have a Great God and His angels ministering to us [daily](#). Satan and his minions are always attempting to deceive us. Armed with this knowledge, how shall we live? How shall we worship?

**Circle key words** in the following verses from the *Book of James* as it relates to worship and daily living. *James 1:26,27 -* <sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious [scrupulously observant of the rituals of his faith] and does not control his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person’s [religion](#) is worthless (futile, barren). <sup>27</sup> Pure and unblemished religion [as it is expressed in outward acts] in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit *and look after* the [fatherless](#) and the [widows](#) in their distress, and to [keep oneself uncontaminated by](#) the [secular] world. *James 4:7-12* So [submit to \[the authority of\] God](#). [Resist the devil](#) [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> [Come close to God](#) [with a contrite heart] and He will come close to you. [Wash your hands](#), you sinners; and [purify your \[unfaithful\] hearts](#), you double-minded [people]. <sup>9</sup> Be [miserable](#) and [grieve](#) and weep [[over your sin](#)]. Let your [foolish] laughter be turned to mourning and your [reckless] joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> [Humble yourselves \[with an attitude of repentance and insignificance\] in the presence of the Lord](#), and He will exalt you [He will lift you up, He will give you purpose].

<sup>11</sup> [Believers do not speak against or slander one another](#). He who speaks [self-righteously] against a brother or <sup>11</sup>judges his brother [hypocritically], speaks against the Law and judges the Law. If you judge the Law, you are not a doer of the Law but a judge of it. <sup>12</sup> There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy [the one God who has the absolute power of life and death]; but who are you to [hypocritically or self-righteously] pass judgment on your neighbor?

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<sup>3</sup> Authors: Henry T. Blackaby & Ron Owens Publisher: LifeWay Church Resources 2001 pg.9