

first. If the church is to accomplish its great mission in the world, God must be its first priority. If the church is once again to become salt and light in an increasingly darkened and decadent culture, it must recover the priority of God for itself.” (Worship 101: Recovering the Priority of God by **Dr. Bruce Leafblad**)

C. Don't Confuse the Gifts for the Gift Giver

“When worship renewal comes, the congregation pursues God Himself as its ultimate objective. God Himself is treasured above any experience, any feeling or any result of worship. Love to God will be the dominant affection expressed through the various forms of worship. Fresh commitment to God is the common response of the entire worshipping community. Worship becomes an end in itself rather than the means to some other end.” (ibid.)

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory *he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,* <sup>17</sup> so that *Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and *to know the love of Christ* that surpasses knowledge, that you may be *filled with all the fullness of God.*

Jesus did show up this morning,  
are you meeting with him or are you still  
stumbling around in spiritual blindness?

John 4:23-24  
*At the Heart of Gospel Growth: Worship*  
April 11, 2010  
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction

A. What if Jesus was Here?

**Matthew 18:20**

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

B. God is Pleased with Worship, not Works

**Matthew 7:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

**John 4:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the *true worshipers* will worship the Father *in spirit and truth*, for *the Father is seeking such people to worship him.* <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him *must worship in spirit and truth.*”

C. Living Water & Worship (Jeremiah 2:12-13)

**Key Idea**

True worship is at the very heart of the gospel.

II. What is True Worship?

[Founders Study Center, course on *Worship* – Dr. Bruce Leafblad]

“Worship is communion with God in which Believers, by grace, center their minds’ attention and their hearts’ affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to His greatness and His word.” – **Dr. Bruce Leafblad**

A. True Worship is Communion with God

Three intimacy models:

1. Father/child
2. Husband/wife
3. Best friend/best friend (Cf. Ex. 33:7-18)

**Exodus 33:11a**

Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, *as a man speaks to his friend*.

B. True Worship Requires Faith

**Hebrews 11:6**

And *without faith it is impossible to please him*, for whoever would **draw near to God** must *believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him*.

1. Belief in the Truth (John 4:23-24)

“Worship is hard work. It requires effort.”

“What a person believes about God is the most important thing he believes.

- God is only worshipped as He is, not as He is not.
- What we believe about God's presence will effect how we worship.” (Matt. 18:20)

2. Trust “Faith is Relational”

(Cf. James 2:19 – Demons believe)

D. True Worship Receives God’s Grace

**Revelation 3:20** (Laodicea)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

E. True Worship Involves Centering Our Minds on God

“There is no such thing as mindless worship.”

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

<sup>18</sup> as we *look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen*. For the things that are seen

are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (Cf. Hebrews 12:1-2)

“The enemy knows how to get our eyes off the Lord.”

F. True Worship is Expressing Love to God

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

<sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

“Worship is loving God first of all, most of all, and best of all.”

G. True Worship is Servant-ministry to God

**Romans 12:1** (Cf. Ephesians 6:5-7)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a *living sacrifice*, holy and *acceptable to God*, which is your **spiritual worship**.

H. True Worship Exalts God’s Glory

**Psalms 115:1**

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

**Isaiah 45:22**

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and **there is no other**.

I. True Worship is a Response to God

(1 John 4:19)

**III. True Worship is at the Heart of the Gospel**

A. True Worshipers Worship More than Once a Week

B. The Priority of Worship is not an Option!

“The priority of God is not an option in Scripture, nor can it be anything but the very centerpiece of Christian belief and practice in the contemporary church. If the church expects to be all that it is intended to be, God must be