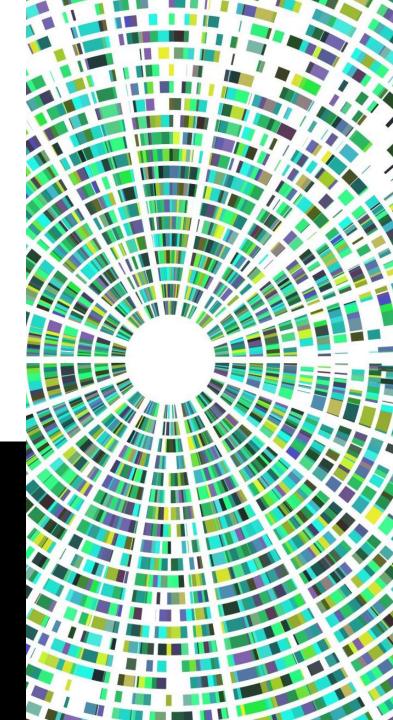
PREPARING TO WORSHIP

Worship is a spiritual act of showing reverence and awe for God.



HEBREWS 12:28-29

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

WORSHIP IS INTERNAL, COMING FROM THE HEART

Jesus said, "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

WORSHIP IS INTENTIONAL, CANNOT HAPPEN OTHERWISE

The Lord said, "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8)

"in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9)

WORSHIP IS VERTICAL, OFFERED UP TO GOD

"Through Him (that is, through Jesus) then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15)

WORSHIP IS MOMENTARY, IT BEGINS AND ENDS

Jesus said, "the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24)

HOW IMPORTANT IS WORSHIP TO GOD?

"'A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?' God answers, 'You are presenting defiled food upon My altar.' But you say, 'How have we

HOW IMPORTANT IS WORSHIP TO GOD?

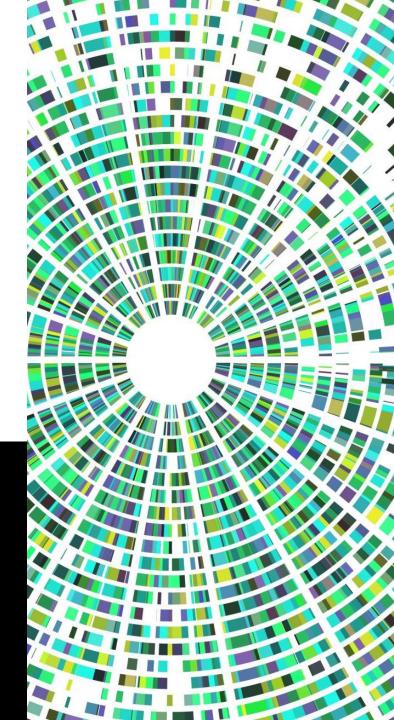
defiled You?' In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is to be despised.' 'But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?' says the LORD of hosts.

HOW IMPORTANT IS WORSHIP TO GOD?

But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 1:6-9)

PREPARING TO WORSHIP

God is due respect in our attitudes, reflected in both appearance and action.



REVELATION 5:11-14

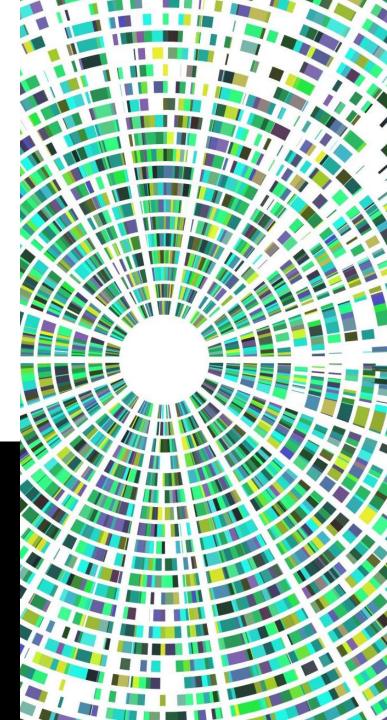
"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

REVELATION 5:11-14

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.' And the four living creatures kept saying, 'Amen.' And the elders fell down and worshiped."

PREPARING TO WORSHIP

There are occasions when God is not reverenced as He should be.



OUR BEHAVIOR MUST BE CONSIDERED AS WE OFFER WORSHIP

"Come and hear, all of you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!" (Psalm 66:16-20)

OUR BEHAVIOR MUST BE CONSIDERED AS WE OFFER WORSHIP

"If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:26-27)

OUR BEHAVIOR MUST BE CONSIDERED AS WE OFFER WORSHIP

"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep" (1 Corinthians 11:27-30)