

## **Worship The LORD Your God**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Psalm 96:1-13, John 4:7-26

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.” (Deuteronomy 10:12-15, ESV)

### **Introduction**

We’re concluding our first series of the year today, based upon Luke’s description of the practice of the First Century Church, with the last of those three pairs of devotional practices: *the teaching of the apostles and the fellowship, the breaking of bread (communion) and prayer, giving to the needs of others and praising God*. As observed at the beginning of the Christian church, we can devote ourselves to these faith practices “*wherever two or more gather in Christ’s Name*” (Mt18:20). Devotion to at least one pair of these faith practices in any of our gatherings as the church is what enables us to gather in Christ’s Name, and makes MiniChurch as powerful as a Sunday gathering!

### **1. Worship is what the LORD requires of us. (Deuteronomy 10:12-22)**

- a) The heavens and the earth belong to God, but He has set His heart in love on you and I!
- b) What did it mean to Israel for the LORD to be both their fear and praise?

### **2. Worship is appropriate for both private and public expression. (Psalm 96:1-13)**

- a) Worship of God can be expressed in song or silence, through words or works!
- b) Our God gives all that is good, perfect, pleasing, beautiful, praiseworthy and life-giving!

### **3. What does it mean to worship the Father in spirit and in truth? (John 4:7-26)**

- a) The Father is actively seeking those who would worship Him in spirit and truth.
- b) The Father gives us Christ as truth, and the Holy Spirit for life, connection and service.

### **Conclusion**

Our English word “worship” comes from the Old English *weorthscipe* which meant attributing value, honor and praise. Praising God (or “worship”) is how we are told to enter into God’s presence. Leading and sharing in worship is like bringing people home to meet our Father God. While we may not feel as if our praise is particularly valuable or impressive, God the Father is looking at our hearts and for those who would worship Him in spirit and truth. *Not only are we saved by God’s grace and our faith, our worship of God is made acceptable by His grace and our faith in Christ.*

### **For our prayerful study, discovery and application:**

1. Read Deuteronomy 10-12-22. How were the Israelites taught to worship God and why?
2. Read Psalm 95:1-13. Talk about the various expressions of worship in the Psalm and your experiences of worshiping God.
3. Read John 4:7-26. How was Christ’s meeting with the woman so expressive of the Father’s love and desire for relationship? Share with someone about your first worship experience.

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