

Worship Him That Made

Study 2

Learning to Worship Him That Made

In our first study we sought to contemplate God's thoughts for and to us about himself that we may see him not from our own thoughts about him but from his thoughts to us about himself. We saw that no human mind could conceive such a God and hence impossible to conceive and make any image of him.

From the inspired thoughts of Ellen White comes this word, "The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. "All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens." Psalm 96:5. "To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things." "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: . . . **I am the Lord; and there is none else.**" **Isaiah 40:25, 26; 45:18. Says the psalmist: «Know** ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves." "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 100:3; 95:6. And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things." Revelation 4:11." Great Controversy pg. 436. What a worship that must be in heaven.

God speaks to us in Isa 8:13 BBE, He says, "But let the Lord of armies be holy to you, and go in fear of him, giving honour to him.

"The Son of God came to this earth to reveal the character of the Father to men, that they might learn to worship Him in spirit and in truth. He came to sow the world with truth. He held the keys of all the treasures of wisdom, and was able to open doors to science, and to reveal undiscovered stores of knowledge, were it essential to salvation. The Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, every phase of truth was evident to Him. {CT 28.2}

The word says, "that they might learn to worship Him in spirit and in truth". So to worship God in spirit and in truth is not natural to the natural mind. But how can we truly worship him that made? Can the natural carnal mind give true and acceptable worship? The obvious and correct answer is no.

Then we must have another mind the mind from above in order that we may have right thinking and acceptable worship hence our unimaginable God says , "Seek ye the Lord while he maybe found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way; and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

So I must forsake my way and my thoughts they are infinitely far from God's thoughts and His ways.

Ellen White comments, "The religion that comes from God is the only religion that can lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the Divine Spirit. This will lead to watchfulness. It will purify the heart and renew the mind, and give us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. {CD 37.3}

Joh 3:3 BBE Jesus said to him, Truly, I say to you, Without a new birth no man is able to see the kingdom of God." God says there must be another birth in order to worship him aright and to begin to see the God's kingdom.

True worship of necessity must involve fear and reverence of God. Let God speak to you and I directly as He spoke to Moses at the burning bush; "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet "for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Exodus 3:5. Holy ground it says. So the simple question is, what made that ground holy? Without a doubt God's presence.

Here is the same word to Joshua and to us. Jos 5:14-15 BBE And he said, No; but I have come as captain of the armies of the Lord. Then Joshua, falling down with his face to the earth in worship, said, What has my lord to say to his servant? (15) And the captain of the Lord's army said to Joshua, Take off your shoes from your feet, for the place where you are is holy. And Joshua did so. What made that place holy? Without a doubt God's presence.

Here is needed instruction, "Well would it be for young and old to study and ponder and often repeat those words of Holy Writ that show how the place marked by God's special presence should be regarded. {Ed 243.1}

Mat 18:20 ASV For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

If He is there, it is to enlighten and bless. Therefore as we assemble together, we all should have a solemn sense of the presence of God. Do I gather in his name or do I just make a number with those who gather in his name?

So we can conclude that the attitude and demeanor in private or public worship demonstrate that we either recognize or do not recognize God's presence or we accept that his presence is or is not with us.

The divine counsel adds further, "The hour and place of prayer and the services of public worship the child should be taught to regard as sacred because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened. {Ed 242.3}. Psa 68:35 GW "God, the God of Israel, is awe-inspiring in his holy place. Do you want to be awe-inspired? Oh God not only can do it he actually does it. You want a high it is available any moment, Therefore this divine counsel cannot be ignored if worship is to be of God or acceptable to him?

1Ti 2:8 GW "I want men to offer prayers everywhere. They should raise their hands in prayer after putting aside their anger and any quarrels they have with anyone."

Let's turn to gen 28 to bring to mind a historical episode of the patriarch Jacob. We may have read of his experience many times but have we received the principle of the right attitude and demeanor in God's presence and worship and the extent of true worship?

Gen 28:10-17 ASV And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. (11) And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set. And he took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. (12) And he dreamed. And behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. (13) And, behold, Jehovah stood above it, and said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac. The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. (14) And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. And in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. (15) And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee, whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land. For I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. (16) And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely Jehovah is in this place. And I knew it not. (17) And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

See the awe and reverence displayed by the patriarch Jacob in recognizing God's presence. What about me?

Hear this word in Psa 68:35 GW "God, the God of Israel, is awe-inspiring in his holy place. He gives strength and power to his people. Thanks be to God!" The word says strength and power to his people- to his people- am I one of his people? Do I join his people at worship but receive nothing and remain empty since I am not one?

And so when God came to Mount Sinai he spoke thus; Exo 20:4-5 ASV Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any likeness

of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. (5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them, for I Jehovah thy God am a jealous God. And there is an infinitely good reason for that command.

“Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god. {PP 305.4}

Ellen white comments further, “The second commandment forbids the worship of the true God by images or similitudes. Many heathen nations claimed that their images were mere figures or symbols by which the Deity was worshiped, but God has declared such worship to be sin. The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower man’s conception of God. The mind, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the creature rather than to the Creator. And as his conceptions of God were lowered, so would man become degraded. {PP 306.1}. What a word.

“In the fourth commandment, God is revealed as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and is thereby distinguished from all false gods. It was as a memorial of the work of creation that the seventh day was sanctified as a rest-day for man. It was designed to keep the living God ever before the minds of men as the source of being and the object of reverence and worship.” {GC88 53.3}

A T Jones the 1888 messenger share these thoughts, “Accordingly, God has always forbidden man to think on this subject: “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, Exo:34.” No man in this world could ever have made any graven image or any likeness of God, if he had not first thought upon this subject, and formed in his imagination a mental image: The graven image, or the likeness which man made to be seen with the eyes, was but the reproduction of his idea of God which he had already mentally imaged. Accordingly, when God came down upon Mount Sinai, to speak to the people the great things of his law, he so arranged it that it was impossible for the people to see anything at all of which they could by any possibility make any image or likeness, even mental.

And so it is written; “Ye came near and stood under the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire, unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds and thick darkness. And the Lord spake unto you, out of the midst of the fire, ye heard the voice of the word, but saw no similitude, only ye heard a voice. Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves, for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, the likeness of anything that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth, and lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations, under the whole heaven.” Deut: 4: 11-19

“Though the heavenly host of angels, cherubim and seraphim, and the Lord himself, were all there, yet no sort of similitude or form of any kind was allowed to be seen by any of all the people of Israel, not even the brightness of his glory, lest, when their eyes should see anything that in any wise reminded them of it, even though it be only the sun or the moon shining in brightness, they should say that this was like it, and should use this as a means of aiding their thoughts in worship, or lest by thinking upon what they might have seen, they should be led to reproduce their mental image in a form or likeness as an aid in worship. Thus, in the strongest possible way, the Lord has made it clear that he is not to be worshiped under any human conception. But that they who worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. In spirit, in total absence of any form or likeness of any kind whatever, mental or otherwise. For as a matter of fact no form or image can ever be otherwise until it is first mental.

“And in truth, in the truth of God, according as that truth is in the word which he has spoken. For if I think of God differently from what he has said, if my thought of him is other than his own thought, and I worship him as that, or, more exactly, worship that as him, then I am not worshipping him at all, but instead am worshipping only my conception or idea of him. But when I worship him in my thought of him, instead of in his thought of him, I simply worship myself instead of him. Therefore, to be a true worshiper of God, I must worship

him only in his own thought concerning himself, which, in his truth, he has given to me. Not only has the Lord in his word that he spoke from Sinai, excluded all possibility of anybody's making any image, likeness, or similitude, but in another place he has beautifully shown the impossibility, in the nature of the case; of anybody's conceiving a correct likeness of God.

Every idol, every false god, is of itself simply nothing. "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one." I Cor. 8:4. The only way in which it can possibly seem to be anything, is from the imagination of its creators and devotees. What the worshippers imagines the god to be, is all that it is, that is all that it can be. And whatever his fears or his desires dictate, that is what he will imagine the god to be. Therefore it is perfectly plain that every idol, every false god, is but the reflection of its creator and devotee. Therefore each idolater is only reflecting himself in the idol, and therefore is really his own god, and therefore is worshipping himself. Therefore idolatry is self-worship.

Further no idol had or can have of itself any character. But the object of all worship whether true or false has conformity to character as its object. It is what the idol is, rather than who he is that is chiefly considered by the worshiper. The idol then, having no character of its own, the only possible character that can ever be associated with it would be that of its creator and devotee given to it. But the only character that its creator can give to it is from his imagination which comes from himself and is therefore human, carnal and natural. Hence all idolatry, all false worship is only the worship of one's self, of a person's ability and powers."

In fact it is the worship of nothing since we are nothing." Ps. 135:15-18. The question then is which God am I worshipping" is it one of my own idea and not the true God? If you are not sure you are worshipping your own idea of God.

Exo 34:6-7 ASV And Jehovah passed by before him, and proclaimed, Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

"That character is the opposite of every human or natural trait. No human mind could ever have originated the conception of such a character. And sufficient proof that no one ever could, is the fact that, in all the efforts of all the minds of all the nations to conceive the right God, no one ever did. Therefore of all the gods that the human race has ever known, Jehovah the God of Israel, is the one God whom men did not make to themselves. He is the one and only God who (could and did) reveal Himself to mankind. He is therefore the only true God, the only rightful object of worship. All idolatry, all false worship, is self worship, all the worship of God, all true worship, is the worship of Jehovah, the true God of Israel, the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ." A. T. Jones, Empires of the Bible page. 47

Now these final thoughts from him that made, Psa 94:18 If I say, My foot is slipping; your mercy, O Lord, is my support.

Psa 94:19 Among all my troubled thoughts, your comforts are the delight of my soul.

Psa 139:1-6 CEV You have looked deep into my heart, LORD, and you know all about me. (2) You know when I am resting or when I am working, and from heaven you discover my thoughts. (3) You notice everything I do and everywhere I go. (4) Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say, (5) and with your powerful arm you protect me from every side. (6) I can't understand all of this! Such wonderful knowledge is far above me.

Oh this is salvation. Oh this is the God of all salvation. This is the God that man cannot image – cannot imagine- cannot make an image of. He has revealed himself and his character. Oh let us be inspired by this awesome God. Oh let us worship him that made.

In our next study we take a look at worshipping in spirit and in truth. May God be with us now and always. Amen,

Yours in the worship of him that made

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