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Dear Associates and Friends,

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There are two articles this month. The first is by Dr. Ernest Martin titled “[How to Worship God](#),” from a short article he wrote in 1975. The second article is by me titled “[Questions and Answers](#).” It presents some of my answers to questions on varied topics over time.

Worshipping God

Every religion has some form of worship. Many things are worshipped in this current world and age. Some people think they are worshipping God, but few really are doing so. They are worshipping false gods or some part of God’s creation. Such is what the apostle Paul says about the wise of the world, those,

“... who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ... Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; ... Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ... Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, ...”

• Romans 1:18, 21–22, 24–25

The idea of worship is often obscured by English translations, especially the King James Version. Religion wonders, how should we worship?

“The question which has given rise to theology is, What is God? The question which has fathered religion is, How to Worship? Philosophy owes its existence to the query, What is truth?”

• F.H. Robison, “God’s Wisdom and the Wisdom that Knows Not God”¹

The words for “worship” in Hebrew and Greek are derived from words denoting a physical act of bowing, kneeling, or prostrating oneself to a superior. When one bowed down to another it was demonstrated in a literal and figurative position of submission, subservience, and subjection to someone in a superior position. This is the meaning of the most prominent Hebrew and Greek words for worship from the article “Worship” in the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (ISBE, 1914):

“The principal Old Testament word is Heb: *shachah*, ‘depress,’ ‘bow down,’ ‘prostrate’ (Hithpael), as in Ex 4:31, ‘bowed their heads and worshipped’; so in 94 other places. The context determines more or less clearly whether the physical act or the volitional and emotional idea is intended. The word is applied to acts of reverence to human superiors as well as supernatural [superiors]. The Revised Version (British and American) renders it according to its physical aspect, as indicated by the context, ‘bowed himself down’ (the King James Version ‘worshipped,’ Gen 24:52; compare 23:7; 27:29, etc.).

The Old Testament idea is therefore the reverential attitude of mind or body or both, combined with the more generic notions of religions adoration, obedience, service. ...”

Worship in the Old Testament focuses on doing public actions. Worship in synagogues as it developed

¹ *Unsearchable Riches*, Vol. 19, Part 1 (January 1928), p. 41.

in the intertestamental period was less public but it still was communal in small groups. Worship in the New Testament was even more personal and less public in nature:

“The principal New Testament word (59 times) is Grk: *proskuneo*, ‘kiss (the hand or the ground) toward,’ hence, often in the oriental fashion bowing prostrate upon the ground; ... It is to render homage to men, angels, demons, the Devil, the ‘beast,’ idols, or to God. It is rendered 16 times to Jesus as a beneficent superior; at least 24 times to God or to Jesus as God. The root idea of bodily prostration is much less prominent than in the Old Testament. It is always translated ‘worship.’ ...

The New Testament idea of worship is a combination of the reverential attitude of mind and body, the general ceremonial and religious service of God, the feeling of awe, veneration, adoration.”

• *Article “Worship” in the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

Questions and Answers

This article is an assortment of questions which I answered to individuals, answers to cover questions you may have asked yourself in the past about some ASK teachings. The topics covered are: seeking fellowship, Noah and Genesis, the man with the pitcher of water, the Angel of the Lord, Satan and Lucifer, Satan reading minds, questions about the transfiguration, life after death, and reincarnation, the supposed missing year “zero,” Goliath’s head and Golgotha, questions about the New Covenant, and questions about the salvation of all, and a verse in the epistle of 2 Thessalonians.

These questions and many others indicate that those asking for particular information are reading the ASK material. My job is to make ASK information as understandable and as complete as possible. Such questions help me to gauge the effectiveness in communicating to people of all interest and knowledge levels. I hope you learn from and find both articles intriguing and enjoyable.

Contribution Receipts for 2012

For those contributors to ASK who live in the United States, if you require or want an annual receipt for 2012 tax purposes, we are happy to send it to you. However, **you must request** that we send you the receipt. We will send them to you in January 2013. We do not automatically send them out. If you do not ask for a receipt, you will not receive it. As always we are pleased to help you in this regard.

Thank You

God has given us the privilege to learn about Him, His Son, His creation, and His plan for you and for me. He wants us to worship Him with an attitude that if we were in His presence we would willingly prostrate ourselves before Him through His Son, Christ Jesus. Indeed, all creation will do that very thing:

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

• *Philippians 2:10–11*

Note the purpose of the bowing and confession. It is done to the glory of God the Father. This is one goal of God’s plan of creation through Christ: **For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever** [for the age]” (Romans 11:36). Our function at ASK is to make God’s plan (through Christ) as clear and understandable as possible. To perform such a task we require your continued support — financially, through your prayers, through your encouragements, and through your telling others (wisely and meekly) about the teachings of ASK.

Our service to others is possible only through you (with God’s grace to you and to ASK). Thank you.

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