



Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship

by Morris Williams

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

*Developed in Cooperation with
the Global University Staff*

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First Edition 1978

Fourth Edition 1996

Reprinted 2001 02/01 600 PRO

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S1211E-90
PN 04.00.01
ISBN 978-0-7617-0730-1

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THE ICI CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the ICI Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Prayer and Worship* is Course 1 in Unit 2. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page of this study guide.

Course Introduction

Worship is praise to God. Worship is service to God. We want to introduce you to a new life of prayer and worship. Therefore, we will introduce you to a new kind of living. At first, it may appear that we are talking about everything else except praying and worshiping. But as you study topics such as the existence of God, the reality of heaven, and the kingdom of God, you will begin to see the relationship between prayer and worship and life in general. It may seem that we have strayed from our subject.

However, a close look at the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples when they asked Him “how” to pray will let you see that He wove all these things into His prayer. It was as if Jesus was saying, “You cannot separate prayer and worship from living. You cannot say of prayer, ‘Now I have finished . . . now I will return to my work’.”

This is the great lesson we must learn from Jesus about praying. Prayer is never finished. It does not end with an “amen.” It is an unending activity, woven into every part of our lives. It is the way we think, and it cannot be separated from anything that we do.

So, time, place, and words of worship are not what we talk about in this book. Rather, we present prayer as the preparation for worship, and worship as constant living in a way that pleases God and fulfills His purposes.

Course Description

This course is a study on prayer and worship with emphasis on the priority of God's glory and God's kingdom over man's needs and wants. It also emphasizes the fact that the things needed will be provided for the believer who honors this priority.

The study is based on Matthew 6:5-13, but the key verse containing the central truth is Matthew 6:33, "Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things."

It starts with the believer's *position* as a son of God. Because he is a son, he can approach his Father's throne with confidence that his prayer will be heard.

As a member of God's family, he has family interests at heart and gives *priority* to his Father's name, kingdom, and will in everything he does. This attitude is reflected in his praying.

Having placed his Father's will above his own, he makes known his personal *petitions* with the confidence that, before he asks, his Father knows he has need of "all these things."

Particular emphasis will be upon prayer and worship as it relates to Christian service. While the material will be appropriate for your spiritual growth and edification, it is outlined in such a way as to provide a tool for Bible study. It should, therefore, serve a two-fold purpose. It can be a guide for your own personal devotion, and it can also enhance your effectiveness in communicating God's Word.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Experience for yourself that God is loving, knowable, and desirous of communicating with you, and being worshiped by you.
2. Use prayer and worship as a path to understanding the plan of God to restore men to fellowship, and a way to make them His sons in the family of heaven.

3. Explain why the worship of God, God's kingdom, and the plan of God must have priority in prayer.
4. Pray according to God's will when seeking your livelihood, a peaceful co-existence with those around you, an overcoming life, and deliverance from evils that overtake you.
5. Establish habits of prayer and worship that will make you Christ-like and an effective witness, able to teach others who are seeking a life of prayer and worship.
6. Persuade others that God exists, loves them, wants to save them, and rewards those who worship Him above all else.

Textbooks

You will use *Prayer and Worship: An Independent-Study Textbook* by Morris Williams as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible (*Today's English Version*) is the only other textbook required.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

1 The Bible has a total of

- a) 100 books.
- b) 66 books.
- c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

1 The Bible has a total of

- a) 100 books.
- (b)** 66 books.
- c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b** The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------|
| ¹ | a Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| ² | b Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ² | c Marched around Jericho | |
| ¹ | d Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Ways to Study this Course

If you study this ICI course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although ICI has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

Unit Student Reports

At the end of the book you will find the Unit Student Report and Answer Sheets. Follow the directions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for his correction and suggestions regarding your work. If you are not studying with an ICI office you will still benefit by answering the questions in the Student Report.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit student reports by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

Author of the Course

Morris Williams was the Field Director for Africa of the Division of Foreign Missions of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, U.S.A.

Prior to this appointment, he and his wife served as missionaries for the Assemblies of God in Central and Southern Africa for 25 years. His work covered a wide range of ministries including evangelism, church planting, Bible School administration, and counseling.

Mr. Williams comes from a family of seven children—all involved in the Assemblies of God ministry today. The position on prayer and worship that he takes in this independent-study textbook is a direct result of the influence of his godly parents. They not only set an example in prayer but demonstrated to their family by their lifestyle what it means to “pray without ceasing.”

After high school, Mr. Williams attended North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He began his ministry in Iowa where, after pastoring a number of years, he was chosen

as youth and Sunday school director for the Iowa District. Shortly thereafter, the Williamses volunteered for the mission field and were appointed to Africa in the year 1946.

Your ICI Instructor

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *Prayer and Worship*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this individual study textbook, including supplemental audio cassettes, video cassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.