

Unit Two

The Priority of Worship



Lesson 4

A King To Be Worshiped

“May your holy name be honored”

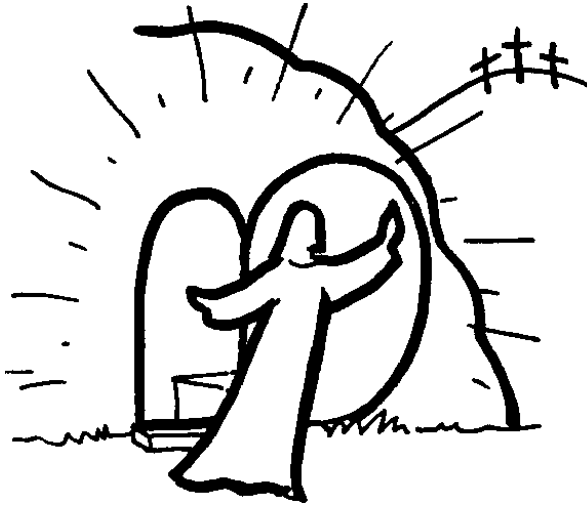
Matthew 6:9

In Unit 1 we talked about the believer’s *position* in prayer. We talked about the position of the *mind*—not the position of the *body*. In other words, when you know who you are and where you belong, you are better able to worship and pray.

In this unit we will talk about that which is most important in worship and prayer. We will talk about *priorities*. “Whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

“Faith that God exists” means the *worship* of God. “Rewards those who seek Him” means *prayers* asking God for something. First we must worship. Then we may ask. But remember, He rewards those who seek *Him*—not those who seek rewards!

So, the *priority* in prayer is worship. We are to be concerned about Him and His kingdom above everything else! That is why, in this unit, we talk about **YOUR** name, **YOUR** kingdom, and **YOUR** will.



lesson outline

Honoring the King

- The Object of Worship
- The Duty of Worship

Overthrowing the Usurper

- The Faces of the Usurper
- The Fallacy of the Empty Throne

Honoring the King's Name

- The Power of the Name
- The Reputation of the King

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Understand the importance of beginning your prayers with worship to God before asking for your own wants.
- Examine your requests when you pray to see whether they honor God.

- Recognize how Satan tries to usurp Christ's place in a believer's heart.
- Identify and break habits of speech and action that dishonor God.

learning activities

1. Do the lesson development section by section. Write the answers to the study questions and self-test questions.
2. Read the following Scriptures that speak of the power of Jesus' name: John 1:12; 14:13; Acts 3:16; 4:12; 9:14; 22:16; Romans 10:13.
3. Read Romans 6:12-23 and explain why it is impossible to have an empty throne in one's heart.
4. Witness about Christ to someone today as an act of honor to the name of God.

key words

fallacy
proclaim

rebel
reputation

usurper

lesson development

HONORING THE KING

Objective 1. *Name some ways a believer can honor God as King.*

God is not only our Father. God is our King. He has a kingdom. We will learn more about this kingdom later.



As sons, we call Him Father. As citizens, we call Him King. As sons, we thank Him for His love and care. As citizens, we obey and worship Him.

So, God is both Father and King, and we are both sons and citizens. The greatest evil that a citizen can do is to fail to respect and obey his king. The greatest good that he can do is to serve and honor him. Love and honor can be shown by obedience and service, but that is not enough.

1 A citizen should and his King.

We are not mere servants. We are sons and citizens. Our Father and King wants more from us than obedience and service. He wants to speak with us and have fellowship. That is why times of worship are so important. We can work for a man and have to obey him without loving him. But we cannot worship God unless we honor and love Him.

2 Why does God want more from us than just our service?

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The Object of Worship

God wants worship that is personal and filled with praise. God wants us to tell Him that we love Him. God wants worship that honors Him as King.

Some people worship lifeless images. Some worship dead ancestors. Some worship nature. But none of these things are warm and personal. None of these can show us love. None of these things can answer prayers.

What about the believers? The object of our worship is alive. The object of our worship is loving. The object of our worship will make Himself known to us as we come into His presence with singing and praise. The object of our worship is the true God! He is not just a god. He is the only God! Beside Him there is no other!

3 What does it mean to worship God as He desires?

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The Duty of Worship

Someone may say, “I worship God, but I don’t believe that Jesus is the Son of God.” Impossible! You cannot worship God and at the same time refuse His Son.

In 1 John 3:22-23, John speaks about God and says, “We receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. What he commands is that we believe in his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as Christ commanded us.” How can people say they worship God and at the same time disobey Him? He has commanded them to believe that Jesus Christ is His Son. Are they going to obey Him? Or are they going to continue to deceive themselves and think that God accepts their worship while they are, at the same time, rejecting His Son?

4 In 1 John 3:22-23, what has God commanded us to do?

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If we are to worship God, we must also worship His Son. In Philippians 2:7-11 it says of Jesus:

Of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like man and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In honor of the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow! It is our privilege now. It will be every unbeliever’s duty later! God has

given the authority to His Son Jesus who shall rule until He has defeated every enemy. Then, even his enemies shall bow in honor of His name. Why not do it willingly now?

- 5** Circle the letter to the left of each TRUE statement.
- a** Every knee shall bow before Christ.
 - b** Only Christians will bow before Christ.
 - c** God has commanded men to believe in Jesus Christ.
 - d** God has given Jesus a name greater than every other name.

OVERTHROWING THE USURPER

Objective 2. *Tell who the usurper is and who and what he uses to do his work.*

The Faces of the Usurper

If we are to know how to pray, it is necessary for us to know who is ruling our hearts. If we are puffed up with pride, if we think more of ourselves than we ought to think, if we are seeking our own glory, then Satan has succeeded in putting “self” back on the throne of our heart.

You can tell who is on the throne of a man’s heart by watching what annoys and angers him. Is he troubled when the name of God is insulted? Does he get upset when people defile his Father’s house? Does he save his anger for those who insult him? Is he annoyed when people fail to honor him for what he thinks he is? Blessed is the man who lets God rule in his heart, and who honors his King’s name!

- 6** When a man says he is ruled by no one, he shows
- a) that Satan has put self on the throne of his heart.
 - b) that he has full control of his life.
 - c) that Christ is Lord of his life.

But, there are other usurpers besides “self” whom Satan puts on the throne of man’s heart. Another very troublesome one is called “service.” It is hard to recognize him because it is easy to think that God has put him there. We can get so busy doing

things for God that we make a god out of work and even begin to worship it. We neglect prayer. We don't honor God's name. We are too busy! We say our work is our worship to God.

We are like a husband who thinks that, because he has a good job and provides for his family, he is a good husband to his wife. When his wife complains, and says he is not paying any attention to her, he points to his work and says she ought to be grateful and satisfied. But she wants more than bread on the table. She wants his love. She wants him to talk with her. She wants him to share his thoughts and his feelings with her. She wants to be close to him and tell him the things that have happened in the family. She wants to tell him the thoughts of her own heart.

God is like that. He appreciates all the work we do for Him, but He also wants us to spend time with Him. He wants us to share our thoughts with Him and to enjoy His presence. He wants us to worship Him and give glory to His name.

7 What does God want from us more than service?

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The priests in the time of the prophet Malachi were a good example of what we are saying. Listen to Malachi's words: "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings . . ." (Malachi 2:1-2, KJV).

The priests were serving at the altars. They were doing their duties. But they did not do it to glorify the name of God. They did it because it was a job—a way of earning their living. This, of course, affected the way in which they did their work. They didn't really care about the people. They only cared for themselves. When you do not worship for the right reasons, you do not do your work right! When work, instead of God, becomes king, it causes you not to care about God, your family, or others.

But when God is on the throne, you work for His glory, and everything you do glorifies Him.

8 Why was God dissatisfied with the work of the priests in the days of Malachi?

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Let us speak of one other thing that takes honor from God's name. When we become followers of men, Satan uses our worship of these men to push God off the throne of our heart. The Corinthian church had this problem. Some were followers of Paul. Some were followers of Apollos. Some were followers of Peter. So they allowed division to come among them. They were putting men on the throne of their hearts rather than God. They were more concerned about the names of Paul, Apollos, and Peter than they were about the glory of God! What a shame! What a terrible thing when believers care more about honoring men than about honoring God! Now, there was nothing wrong with Paul, Apollos, and Peter. They were all God-honoring men. The evil was in the people who put them on the throne of their hearts and honored them more than God. Let us put God on the throne of our hearts and worship Him!

9 Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-7 and tell what was wrong in this church.

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The Fallacy of the Empty Throne

Objective 3. *Describe the methods Satan uses to usurp Christ's throne in the believer's heart.*

The devil is a deceiver and a rebel. He was one of God's highest angels, but his heart became lifted up and filled with pride. He decided to try to take the throne of God, so he led a rebellion in heaven. Many angels were deceived by him and followed him. Read in Ezekiel 28:1-17 about the King of Tyre. It is a picture of Satan's rebellion. God cast Satan out of heaven as well as the rebellious angels who had followed him. Satan

was cast down to the earth, and has ruled here ever since that time. God’s plan is to overthrow Satan and take back control over the world. He first sent Jesus who defeated sin and death and broke the power of Satan. In the end, He will destroy Satan and rule the world.

10 Ezekiel 28:1-17 discusses the King of Tyre. It is also a picture of

- a) the coming of Christ to this earth.
- b) the final defeat of Satan.
- c) Satan’s rebellion.

Hebrews 2:14-15 is a clear account of what Jesus did to make the plan of God possible:

Jesus Himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death.

Satan still rules this world, but his rule will soon be finished. He still sits on the throne of the hearts of unbelievers and controls them. Soon Jesus will come again, and when He does, He will rule the world and all who are in it. Satan’s power and control will be completely finished. His power has already been broken for all those who believe in Jesus. He can no longer control them. Satan today no longer sits on the throne of their hearts. The usurper has already been overthrown in the believer’s heart! Hallelujah!

11 How did Jesus free those who were slaves to the fear of death?

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Satan has been overthrown in the heart of the believer. Is the throne empty? Does no one rule the believer? There is a great lesson here! There is no such thing as an empty throne. Either God is on the throne, or a usurper is occupying it. When one

ruler is overthrown, another takes his place. In fact, rulers do not usually leave their thrones unless someone throws them off!

12 What is the fallacy of the empty throne in the hearts of men?

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Some believe they have no ruler. These people say that they are masters of their own lives, and that no one else rules them. How wrong they are! How they deceive themselves!

Surely you know that when you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey—either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God (Romans 6:16).

We are the slaves of the master we obey. Can you say that you are living without sin? Can you say that you are not obeying the selfish desires of your heart? Can you say that your emotions do not control you?

13 What shows who your master is?

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If things control you or have power in your life, then you cannot say that you are free. You are not your own master. You do have a king! You may not call him Satan. You may call him “self,” but Satan is the one who put “self” there. Satan is ruining you through your “self”!

HONORING THE KING’S NAME

Objective 4. *State what can be accomplished in the King’s name and why His name deserves honor.*

The Power of the Name

Matthew 6:9 says, “May your holy name be honored.” Why does it speak of His name rather than of God Himself? Why

doesn't it say, "May you be honored"? Isn't a man more important than his name? How can a name be important?

When a man signs his name to a paper, he is saying that he agrees to do whatever is written on the paper. Now, if he is a poor man and agrees to pay a lot of money, we say that he is using his name improperly. It is not honest to put your name on something you cannot fulfill or do.

But, think of what God's name means! God is all-powerful. God is all-knowing. God is everywhere. He is the owner of unlimited riches and lacks nothing. So, if God puts His name to any writing, you can be sure that He is able to do what He says He will do.

14 How can you be sure God can do what He says He will do?

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If we are to learn how to pray, we must believe that God will do what He has promised to do when we ask in His name. God has written many promises in His Word. To doubt His Word is to insult His name! It is as though He gives us a check signed with His name and we refuse to take it to the bank because we do not believe He has enough money there to honor it!

Paul said, "Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Jesus said, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matthew 21:22).

God says, "I am the Lord, the one who heals you" (Exodus 15:26).

Believer, child of God, take these promises, signed by His name, to God in prayer. He will answer!

15 What do the preceding verses tell us about God?

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There are many other promises written in His Word. He has "signed" them all. Do you doubt them? Do you doubt the truth

of His Word? Can you put away your doubts, right now, and trust His name? Go to Him in prayer. Go—in faith! Go—in His name!

We are quick to believe men. We trust the word of doctors, ministers, friends, and even politicians, but we seem to have a hard time believing God. How can we expect God to answer prayer when we give men's names more honor than God's name? When we believe the word of men more than we believe the promises of God, we do not know how to pray. We are not trusting, above everything else, the promises of God given in His name!

16 Match the verses (left) to the correct Scriptures (right) by placing the correct number on each blank.

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|--------|--|------------------|
| a | “I am the Lord, the one who heals you.” | 1) Matthew 21:22 |
| | | 2) Exodus 15:26 |
| b | If you believe, you will receive.” | 3) Romans 10:13 |
| c | “Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.” | |

The Reputation of the King

A name carries with it a man's reputation. A name doesn't make you what you are. What you are makes your name! So, if you are a dishonest man, you soon get a name for yourself. “You can't trust that man,” people will say. You have earned a name for being dishonest. Now, you may say, “That's not my name. My name is ‘Mr. Truth’.” But, that won't make any difference to those who know you. To them, your name is “Mr. Dishonest!” because of how you live. As Christians we must always work toward glorifying God by our good reputations.

The Bible says, “Do not use my name for evil purposes” (Exodus 20:7). We use God's name for evil purposes when we say it carelessly, or use it when not speaking for His glory. This is called “swearing” or “cursing.” We take God's name in vain when we have so little respect for Him that we call His name in

times of disgust or surprise. If we only use His name to emphasize our feelings, and not as an act of worship, we are insulting the name of God. We are failing to honor His name.

17 Name one way to honor God's name.

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So, let us conclude this lesson by listing some things we must do if we are to know how to pray.

1. We must honor God as King in our hearts.
2. We must recognize that we are His sons and citizens of heaven, and not put anyone or anything else on the throne of our hearts.
3. We must believe in the power of His name and claim His promises.
4. We must be careful in what we say and what we do, knowing that we are representing God.

self-test

SHORT ANSWER. Write the correct answer in the space provided.

1 Explain the difference between servants and sons as it relates to worship.

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2 Explain an important difference between God, our Father, and the gods other men worship.

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3 Name three things Satan puts on the throne of our hearts to usurp the kingship of Jesus.

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4 How did the Corinthian church dishonor Christ?

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5 What is the fallacy of the empty throne in the hearts of men?

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6 Name the four things mentioned at the close of Lesson 4 that we must do if we are to learn how to pray.

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answers to the study questions

- 9** Jealousy, following after men.
- 1** (any two) obey, serve, love, honor, respect.
- 10** c) Satan's rebellion.
- 2** We are not servants, we are sons. He wants our love and our worship.
- 11** Through His death he destroyed the devil's power.
- 3** God wants worship that is personal, honors His name, and is filled with praise.
- 12** There is no such thing as an empty throne. Either God is on the throne, or a usurper is occupying it.
- 4** That we believe in Jesus and love one another.
- 13** The one you obey is your master.
- 5** a True.
b False.
c True.
d True.
- 14** He is all-powerful, all-knowing.
- 6** a) that Satan has put self on the throne of his heart
- 15** He will keep His promises.
- 7** Our worship and fellowship.
- 16** a 2) Exodus 15:26.
b 1) Matthew 21:22.
c 3) Romans 10:13.
- 8** Because they did not give glory to His name.
- 17** By our good reputations.

For Your Notes