

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Newsletter

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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During this month there will be one of the most solemn ceremonial days for those in Commonwealth countries. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month there will be the recalling of the official end of World War 1. At that time, on that day in 1918, all hostilities ceased with the Germans signing the Armistice. While the armistice was agreed on at 5.00 a.m. on the 11th of November, it did not come into effect until 11.00 a.m. Then on November 7, 1919 King George V dedicated it as a "Day of Remembrance" for those of the armed forces killed during that war.

During that war Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae presided over the funeral of his friend and fellow soldier, Alexis Helmer, who died in the second battle of Ypres, Belgium. Having officiated at the funeral on May 3rd 1915, he wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields". It was first published December 8th 1915 in "Punch", a London magazine. Due to that poem, the poppy became the emblem of Remembrance Day and which every remembrance day the words are solemnly repeated:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead: Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved: and now we lie  
In Flanders fields!*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you, from failing hands, we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields*

We, the people of God, have a remembrance. It is also the remembrance of a war and a conquering, a glorious defeat, and words which in solemnity are repeated. Like WW1, there was never an official surrender, but such a devastating conquest that for the foe there never would be supremacy again. God gave a wonderful foreshadow of it when the Egyptians, determining to slay the children of Israel, went into the Red Sea and were drowned (Ex. 14:28-30; 15:4-5). They also never surrendered. No documents were ever signed to signify the end of the conflict, but such was the devastation that it spelt the beginning of the end for Egypt. In the remembrance of the Lord the symbol is not a poppy, but a loaf of bread

and a cup, normally with wine in it. The words quoted are not that of a pathos filled poem, but those of the Son of God on the night of His betrayal.

It is the privilege of gathering with saints to remember the Lord. Reading very carefully, Matthew informs us: "Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve" (Matt. 26:20). But, Dr. Luke tells us: "He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him" (Lk. 22:14). Note the distinction. He sat down with them, and then they sat down with Him. In the first case it was wondrous condescension, and in the second it was superlative honour. In the Old Testament we read: "And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink" (Ex. 24:11). What hallowed moments these were. Humanity sitting, not just in the presence of God, but with God.

At times it is called "the Eucharist", or "Lord's Supper", or "Worship meeting"; and I have had the privilege of sitting to remember the Lord some 2880 time. If it is called a "Worship meeting", then one must ask:

### What is Worship?

In reading the scriptures it is evident worship must be important because of the multiple references to it. In the Old Testament there are 106 references to worship, worshipped, worshipping; and 70 in the New Testament. We also make another observation between the first and last references in both Testaments. The first reference in the Old Testament speaks of a number going to worship God (Gen. 22:5), and the last reference tells of a number of people who refuse to worship God (Zech. 14:17). When reviewing the New Testament, the first reference is to a group who are desirous to worship Christ (Matt. 2:2). The last reference is to a man who worships the wrong person, and is told to worship God (Rev. 22:9). Interestingly, while we read of the Father and the Lord being worshipped, I am not aware of any Biblical reference to the worship of the Holy Spirit.

Many have tried to describe worship, but it seems to me that they give that which may or may not be characteristics of it. For instance, one brother, a mighty man of God wrote: "Worship is the Christian's highest occupation"; another wrote: "it is an act of homage or respect; to be in awe of a person, to show devotion towards, to adore". To a measure these are correct, but to my mind they do not really catch what worship is. For instance, I respect my mother, but I do not worship her; I have an attitude of awe for the Queen, but I do not worship her; I praise my daughter for a good cooked meal, but I do not worship her; I give thanks to folk I stay with, but I do not worship them.

What is this thing called worship? My definition is:

"Worship is the automatic outflowing of a heart that has been caused by the Holy Spirit to appreciate some particular wonder or moral excellency of God or Christ."

Now note it says the "automatic outpouring of the heart". I base this on the words of the Psalmist when he wrote: "My heart is inditing (overflowing) a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king" (Psa. 45:1). From this verse it is evident that worship is not the result of largeness of intellect, but of heart appreciation.

There are a number of ways one can worship:

- a) Man can worship by bowing down, or kneeling (Psa. 95:6), which when done from the heart indicates an attitude of humility before Divine persons,
- b) Man can worship by giving, being conscious of the goodness of God. (Deut. 26:10; 1 Chron.16:29)
- c) Man can worship by singing (Psa. 66:4). Again, this is singing in the Spirit, not just singing words void of any appreciation or being sung with fleshy emotionalism.
- d) Man can worship by obeying the commands of God. (Mk. 7:7)
- e) Man can worship by serving God (Rom. 1:19). This indicates that when I am asked to speak, or write this paper, it is done from a heart filled with devotion to God, enabled by His ability, and for His glory.

The Lord told us that the Father loves worshippers, not because He is an egotistic God, but because man becomes like that which He worships (Psa. 115:4-8), and when we worship God there is a conforming to His likeness.

Worshipping in spirit, cannot be restricted to a certain place or certain situations of life, neither can it be worked up. I recall, when working in a bakery, beside me was an atheist and on the other side a pagan who wore an Egyptian god round his neck, yet at times my heart soared to God in worship. At other times I sat with the saints singing hymns and my mind far removed from that which was happening. It was not worship. This worship can rise to God in the many varied experiences of life.

- a) When a saint is in turmoil, God can reveal Himself as the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-4) and the saint can worship.
- b) When friends and family reject a saint, God can reveal Himself as David says: "When my father and my mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take me up", and the saint worship." (Psa. 27:10)
- c) When a saint is dying God can draw near and the saint can worship. (Heb. 11:21)
- d) When a saint experiences bereavement God can draw near and they can worship. (2 Sam. 12:20)
- e) Gideon worshipped in a battle field when being assured of victory over an enemy of immeasurable size (Jud. 7:15). What a lovely truth. Oh to worship God in the times of trial. Worshipping because one knew the greatness of His glorious power guarantees one of victory.
- f) Job worshipped when he suffered great losses and deep bereavement.

Worship is not restricted to Sunday in church.

In the consideration of this theme, we try to take comfort from some of those in the scriptures who worshipped. Individuals such as:

Those Who Worshipped	Their Characteristic	Reference
The Servant	One of the working class	Gen. 24:26, 48, 52
Moses	A leader among the people of God	Ex. 34:8
Samuel	A little child serving the Lord	1 Sam. 1:28
Gideon	A man who did not know what the future held	Jud. 7:15
Job	A business man who lost everything	Job 1:20
Jacob	An old contriving individual	Heb. 11:21
The leper	An outcast because of deformity	Matt. 8:2
The ruler	A religious political figure	Matt. 9:38
The Syrophenician	A woman concerned for her child	Matt. 15:22
The man of Gadara	A man about to be saved	Mk. 5:6
The blind man	A man who had sight given to him	Jn. 9:38

Wonderful as it is to worship God as an individual, there is a more glorious blessing when there is a group of people worshipping the Lord. Examples of such are:

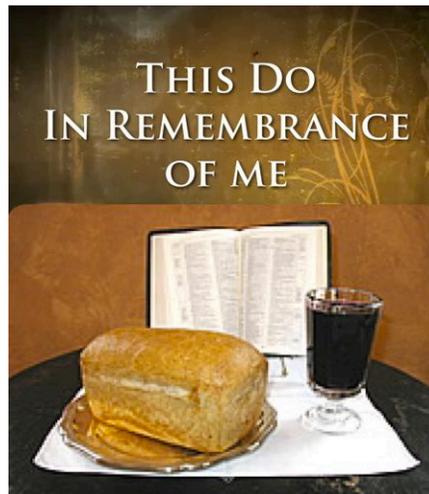
Those Who Worshipped	Reference
The people of Israel	Ex. 4:31
The wise men	Matt. 2:11
Hezekiah and Israelites	2 Chron. 29:28-29
Ezra and all the people	Neh. 8:6
Disciples	Matt. 28:9

Those Who Worshipped	Reference
24 elders	Rev. 5:14
All the angels, elders and four living creatures	Rev. 7:11

Looking again at the scriptures we see in the Lord the fulness of His preeminence. He is preeminent in:

Liberation	Gal. 5:1
Qualifications	Rev. 5:7
Exaltation	Eph. 1:22-23
Perfection	Psa. 24:3-4
Preservation	Jude 24
Justification	1 Tim. 4:16
Attraction	So. of Sol. 5:9-16
Exultation	Rev. 5:11-13
Revelation	Jn. 1:18; 14:9
Attainment	Col. 2:14-15
Resurrection	Col. 1:18

Let us muse on His words again:



*This is my body which is given for you . . .  
Take, eat . . . in remembrance of me.  
(Lk. 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24)*

*This cup is the New testament in my blood,  
this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in  
remembrance of me.  
(1 Cor. 11:25)*

. . . Rowan Jennings