

HOW GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED

RR # 751

- Bible expresses what God expects from His children in every area of their lives
 - This includes ~ how **He wants them to worship Him**
 - One way He wants us to do this is through – **WITNESSING**
 - Last Sabbath - we learned how we can have guaranteed success
 - **Today** we'll look at a Psalm which shares how **God wants** to be **worshipped**
 - **4** specific concepts are shared by the unknown author of this psalm

GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED - ENTHUSIASTICALLY

- **Psm 95:1, 2** (Rock of our Salvation ... expression for **God** only used here)
 - "Sing" - literally means shouting aloud w/ **joy**
 - This idea can make conservative people ~ like me ~ a bit uneasy
 - This type of worship seems more passionate and lively than what we do today
 - Maybe ~ many of us are more *stoic* than worshippers in Bible times
 - Bible shares ... God wants us to worship Him actively - earnestly
- A good illustration of what how God wants to be worshipped is how it's done in **Heaven**
 - **Rev 5:9 ~ 14** green flag
- Many different **styles** of music ... God likes them all ~ as long as they honor Him and express the love in our hearts for our Heavenly Father
 - Notice how the Apostle Paul instructs believers - **Eph 5:18 b - 19** P2
 - **Psalms** means: a striking of musical strings with fingers { guitar playing }
 - Refers primarily to **OT** Psalms accompanied by instrumental music
 - **Hymns** were a **cappella** pieces ~ sung by a group of saints
 - Example is what happened after Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper:
 - ... **they sang a hymn** and left for the **Mount of Olives**



- **Spiritual songs** refers to songs which share a **personal** testimony
 - Like when we suggest which song we want to sing next
 - “to make melody in our hearts” = we really **mean** it !
- **??** Why all this emphasis on singing ...
 - Look again at **Psm 95:1, 2** joyfully **=** merrily, jubilantly, boisterously
 - Even an untrained ear can detect singing which is **NOT** joyful

GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED *ENTHUSIASTICALLY* ... **also** - **REVERENTLY**

- Bible tells us why God wants us to worship Him enthusiastically and reverently: **V 3**
 - Seems like “**great**” isn’t a big enough adjective to describe our impressive God
 - Hebrew word we translate as **great** literally means **spectacular**
 - Still doesn’t seem sufficient ~ ~ **Psm 66:5 - 7**
 - We should reflect on God by remembering His **deeds** ... the Exodus - parting the Red Sea - crossing the Jordan Rv
 - **?** How has God used His limitless power **for us**
- God wants us to worship Him reverently ~ He’s the **Great King** above all other gods
 - **Polytheism** was prevalent in Biblical times ~ ~ and it’s still pervasive today
 - There have been - and always will - be two kinds of Gods:
 - **One True God** ~ and others we sinners make for ourselves
 - Sinners make gods [small “g”] of convenience: like pleasure – success - \$\$
 - Whatever is number one in our lives ~ ~ that’s our **god**
 - As sinners we worship and make sacrifices to these false **gods**
- To worship **Jehovah, Elohim, Adonia** as He desires ... **must** obey **Exodus 20:3**
 - First commandment demands we only worship the **One True God** in Heaven
 - **Matt 22:35 - 38**

GOD WANTS OUR OBEDIENCE -- **For me** ... this is the highest form of worship

- True worship of God ... *as He wants it done* ... results in our obedience
 - Let's notice what the Psalmist wrote: **Psm 95: 7 b** – **8 a**
 - “**Rebellion**” refers to the incident described in Exodus Chpt 17 where the Israelites complained about having no water
 - Here the children of God seriously questioned His power and presence
 - Hardening one's heart results from ignoring God's demonstrated goodness
 - **Exodus Chpt 17** occurs a few days after ***God parted the Red Sea***
- Hardening one's heart is one of the worst choices we can make ...
 - It results when we're persuaded about Bible Truth by the **H.S.** in our minds ~ **but** we choose **NOT** to surrender our heart ... we **don't** follow God's Voice
 - This decision grieves God ~ because of our actions ... He can't help us
 - God respects our free-will choice and ... we break His heart
- True worship always come from remembering how good God has been to us ... therefore ... we as His Children choose to be obedient to Him
 - **CRITICAL** for us not to harden our hearts when we worship God
 - Four times ... not just **3** ... we're told: *Today, if you hear His voice ~ **do not** harden your hearts*
 - To avoid hardening our hearts - helps to recall: **Psm 34:9, 10** & **84:11**
- **A psychological fact:**
 - Each time we refuse to be obedient to God ~ we harden our hearts some more
 - After a while ... we've hardened our hearts so much ~ we won't even sense God speaking to us any more
 - That's why it's so critical we do not harden our hearts ...
 - Each time we say **no** to God ... it's easier the next time to say the same thing

