

Bible Study Center Seminar

**Topic: “Is the modern practice of ‘WORSHIP’
from God or from Men?”**

This is a 3-part seminar that will look at the topic of WORSHIP. We will focus upon the popular religious beliefs on the matter and then carefully examine “key texts” on the matter to see what they really have to say in their original contexts.

Each session of the seminar is designed to span 2 hours, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and will break down into an initial 10-minute introduction/review, followed by a 40-minute lecture, with a 20 minute snack/visitation break, followed by another 40-50 minute lecture.

The flow of topics covered in the seminar are as follows;

Session 1A = Introduction: Laying a FOUNDATION...

Session 1B = Bible Translations and Translators!

Session 2A = A Look at the Greek words translated “WORSHIP”!

**Session 2B = Verses that were combined together by translators
to CREATE the concept called “WORSHIP”!**

Session 3A = What IS the Sunday gathering?

Session 3B = Summary and “Open Forum”

WORSHIP

I. INTRODUCTION:

This topic is both important and controversial. It is important because it deals with something that Christians of all kinds believe affects their most intimate relationship with God. For centuries, scholars and theologians have taught lessons describing “**worship**” as the highest act of homage, penance, and love possible for a human being to do. Thousands of commentary books have been published on the matter and so it is not surprising to see why people believe that “**worship**” is such an important thing. After all, the word “**worship**” appears numerous times inside our Bibles in passages that clearly portray it as something **vital** in a person’s personal relationship with God!

IF GOD DOES instruct Christians “**TO WORSHIP**” him and they refuse to do it, or if they **WORSHIP** God and something (or someone) else, then it will be difficult for them to please God!

It does not take extensive observation to see that “**worship**” brings out deep emotional responses in people, it makes them feel close to God, secure in their faith, it rekindles the hope and dedication within their hearts, and helps satisfy their most basic need for fellowship and communion with **BOTH** God and their fellow believers. At the same time, it does not take much observation to notice how **DIFFERENT** “**worship**” practices are and that behind these differences in practice lie **MANY** differing religious opinions on what “worship” **IS** and on **HOW** it should be done. In fact, the WAY “**worship**” is done is often an identifying characteristic used to differentiate one religious group from others and many people select the church they will attend based upon their own expectations regarding “**worship**”! This is why the topic is controversial!

Putting aside the reality of its great popularity, and the level of importance placed upon it in the minds and hearts of people all over the world, “**worship**” is in fact quite controversial because, unfortunately, it deals with matters that **ARE NOT** defined by God in the Bible, but rather have **developed** and **evolved** through thousands of years of “man-made tradition.” The pathway of this development has fragmented many times down through the centuries due to disagreements between brethren over “form and function” which, in the absence of a set standard of teaching on the matter from God, resulted in a parting of ways, a regrouping of likeminded comrades into smaller units, and an updating of the doctrine of each resulting group to implement their own now distinct beliefs on the matter. The more this cycle repeats itself the more pronounced the problem becomes.

Even with all the obvious confusion one observes in the religious world around us regarding the definition and practices of “worship”, because it is perceived to be so vital to the health and vitality of one’s spiritual life, it is difficult to get people to objectively look at what the Bible has to say on the matter. After all, what person **TODAY** who claims to know God, and who has had experience in “modern religion”, would **easily accept** the suggestion that there is actually **no such thing as “worship” defined and explained in the verses of the Bible?**

The bottom line in the controversy goes back to the statement in the box on the previous page. If **GOD SAYS** to do it then it is not an option! However, there is another possibility that any person claiming to be a Christian **MUST EQUALLY** accept without question or reservation.

IF GOD DOES NOT instruct Christians **“TO WORSHIP”** him, then **IT IS UNACCEPTABLE** if men (for whatever reason) teach people that God wants them to do it! People cannot please God following **“traditions of men”**!

God’s word is filled with warnings to leave **HIS WILL** alone, and neither add nor take away from it! The writers of the New Testament struggled at the end of the 1st Century as many who had once stood in the waters of baptism, promising God **LOYALTY** and obedience, now overwhelmed by the influences of the world, became instruments of division and blasphemy. **MEN WERE CHANGING THE ORIGINAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST AND CONFUSING OTHER CHRISTIANS WITH THEIR FALSE TEACHINGS.** The result was division that eventually gained such a foothold that by the 4th Century, the **TRUE** church of the Lord was undoubtedly an unnoticeable small band of believers, most likely considered a “sect” by the main-line “Christian” groups of the time. These larger groups had sold out to man-made traditions and the power of politics and money and forgot the most basic of Christian values; **LOYALTY TO THE MASTER WHO BOUGHT THEM!**

The seeds of rebellion were already sprouting in the final years of the writers of our New Testament. They tried hard to fight against their propagation with letters and warnings, which echo today in our own world as pleas to would-be disciples to remember that once the commitment to follow Jesus is made, there is no turning back. Once Jesus is the Lord, **HE** becomes the one and only **RULER! HIS WILL IS THE ONLY WILL THAT MATTERS!** No person, leader, group or power has the right or authority to alter or change Christ’s teachings in even the slightest way! This was true in the closing years of the Apostolic Age and holds just as true in every age thereafter!

Consider the following **WARNINGS** from the text of the New Testament.

In **2 John 1:9-11** we find evidence that people who used to be Christians were, at that time, traveling from place to place confusing people with teachings that were **NOT** Christ’s. What does John say to his readers in this passage? First, he reminds them of the fact that **NO ONE** is a Christian unless they remain in the teachings **OF CHRIST**. The language of the writer uses “teaching” in the singular to refer to the “collection of Christ’s teachings”. To venture **OUTSIDE** the boundary of these teachings would result in expulsion from the fellowship with Christ and his Father in the same way that Adam and Eve of old were expelled from the Garden of Eden. He points out that only through continued submission to **CHRIST’S** teaching will fellowship with **BOTH** the **SON AND THE FATHER** be possible!

What is even more interesting is what he says next! **ANYONE** who would come and bring teachings that were in any way different was not only **NOT** to be trusted, **but NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED!** To even **GREET** such a teacher a pleasant journey would make one a **PARTNER** in their “evil work!”

In another letter, John speaks about the “bottom line” of Christianity. We often hear people from various religious groups questioning people on the street about how **SURE** they are they will go to heaven if they might die in the night. In **1 John 2:3-6**, the issue of **CERTAINTY** is brought out and the answer that this old man, who had seen, examined, and touched the Lord himself was the best living authority to answer such an inquiry and his answer put chills into the hearts of anyone truly seeking God’s truth! If a person **CLAIMS** to be a Christian, the only way to be absolutely certain of success is to follow what God tells you to do! Claiming to “know” God while **NOT** following what he says does not make a person a “weak Christian”, or an “unfaithful Christian”. John says that it makes such a person “a liar!” On the positive side, he points out that when a person keeps God’s words then “love for God” is made complete in that person.

No matter how you want to take the reference to God’s love the outcome of what he demands is the same. If John refers to the love **that God has for us**, that love is completed **ONLY** if his followers submit to and obey his will. After all, God **DID NOT LOVE US** so that we could disobey him. Nothing is completed by people promising loyalty and then giving disloyalty!

If he is referring to the love **a person has for God**, then that claim of love can only be proven through complete obedience! To **CLAIM** to follow God but not actually obey him **DOES NOT** make that person’s love for God complete!

To make his point very easy to understand, he closes the thought with a practical summary statement. Anyone who claims to know God should **live as Jesus lived!** Did Jesus **EVER** disobey God? He never did because he **LOVED** his Father! God’s love was made complete in Jesus and, in like manner, anyone else who “loves the Father” will have that love evaluated by the reality of their obedience.

If we continue to **Galatians 1:6-9** we find Paul also facing a situation where people who were once believers are now going from place to place teaching different things and causing many people to fall away! From what he says, we can easily see that certain people were introducing changes to the “Good News”, which was a phrase that stood for the message of salvation given by God for all mankind. People were making changes and this was a bad thing. Paul points out that **NO ONE IN THIS WORLD OR BEYOND** has the authority to change the original teachings that were delivered by Jesus and by his first disciples. **He offers a CURSE upon ANYONE who would introduce a “different Good News!”**

Matthew 7:21-23 contains perhaps the most important and most ignored warning in the entire Bible. Most important because it comes direct from the lips of the Lord and Master that so many today claim they love and belong to. It is perhaps most ignored because time and time again, people read through it never stopping to consider the possibility that **THEY MIGHT BE THE VERY ONES TO WHOM JESUS WAS SPEAKING!**

Look carefully at what Jesus says!

A person claims to be a follower of God, does many “religious things”, possesses spiritual powers, and gives God the credit for all that is done and yet Jesus says that he “**never knew**” them! **NEVER** knew them? How can that be? The answer can be seen in the statement of Jesus in verse 21. “Not

everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, **but only the one doing the will of my Father** who is in the heavens."

We cannot simply choose to read those portions of the Bible that portray God as the all loving, all forgiving, Father from the Parable of the Prodigal Son. As difficult as it may be to do, we must come to know God completely! This Father who loves us so is the same God who destroyed all the nations during the Conquest, and even his **OWN PEOPLE** in the Old Testament. He is the Father who is the authority behind Jesus, who received glory when Jesus is obeyed, who even now is exempt from the great authority Jesus was given, and who will one day be left as the sole ruler of heaven! This is the Father that Jesus dared not disobey, the Father that he himself told everyone to fear more than any man, and who – in his statement in Matthew 7 – **has A WILL that anyone CLAIMING to be a follower must obey!**

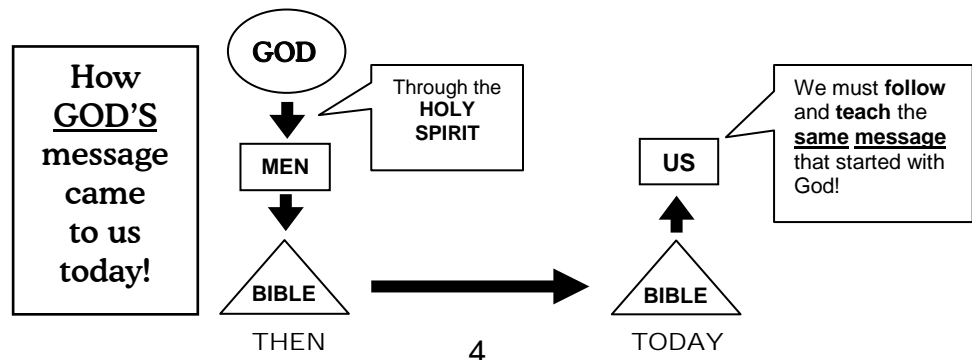
THAT "WILL" IS THE TEACHINGS THAT JESUS GAVE TO ALL PEOPLE, AND IT IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE!

Since God has a WILL it means that **ALL THINGS** he wants his followers to do are to be found **IN THE CONTENTS OF THAT WILL**.

The problem that Jesus mentions here is not a new one. Even in the Old Testament time, the world was filled with people trying to make their own way of serving God. More often than not, they went to the point of ignoring the one TRUE God and invented their own "gods". Regardless of the strangeness of their practices, they felt comfortable in what they believed. However, even in ancient times there were warnings from above that told mankind **NOT to determine GOD'S WILL by what FEELS right!**

Proverbs 14:12 brings forth this reality in simple and clear words. "There is a way that seems right to a man but its end is the ways of death!" The most important thing to remember is this, ***"Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding, in all your ways trust in him and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes, but fear the Lord and turn away from evil."*** (Proverbs 3:5-8)

In **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, Paul explains to his young assistant, Timothy, that everything a person needs to teach people about God, to correct errors in people, to scold people who are doing bad things, and to train people in the way of God's justice can be found in "the writing" – which today we call "the Scripture". It is complete and "God-breathed" – meaning that it comes from God and **NOT** from men! Because of this fact, it is **ALL WE NEED** to do any good work! (See also **2 Peter 1:20-21**.)



What does it all mean?

1. Only **GOD'S teachings** are important!
2. The Bible is **GOD'S MESSAGE** and is the only authority for us today!
3. **No man has the authority** to create new teachings!
4. No person **who changes GOD's message** will survive the Judgment!
5. **If a teaching today is not mentioned by God** in the Bible then it **IS NOT** from God!

II. TRANSLATIONS AND TRANSLATORS!

A. We take many things for granted when we pick up a "Holy Bible".

1. We **ASSUME** that the translators have done a 100% accurate job.
2. We **ASSUME** that the contents are complete.
3. We **ASSUME** that we hold in our hands the actual words of God!
4. And yet **we KNOW that not ALL Bibles are the same!**

- **These differences account for many of the differences in religious teaching and doctrine found in churches today!**
- **We cannot determine if a Bible is "good" or "bad" based upon how popular it is!**

B. The Bible message was originally written in two basic languages (Hebrew and Greek) that require **TRANSLATION** into our modern languages.

1. Translators study these languages and how they were used in their original time periods.
2. Translators are **supposed** to do their work in such a way that what they produce is an accurate and objective translation of the words and phrases in the languages of today.

C. Bible translators are often the cause of problems in religion today!.

1. A translator's basic responsibility is to take the original message language and write it using the corresponding words in the translation language so that the message remains complete and unchanged.
2. Bible translators often attempt to be "theologians"¹ and write **what they think the message MEANS** instead of what the message really says!
3. A Bible translator does not have the right to let his religious beliefs and those of his church influence his work.
4. He/She **MUST** translate the original message accurately, regardless of whether or not the result agrees with what he or his church believes.
5. **If he/she CHANGES the original Bible message in any way** based upon what he or his church believes **then the translation becomes "commentary"**² **and is useless for others to use!**

**IF THIS HAPPENS
THEN IT IS WRONG!**

¹ **Theologians** are people who look at God's message and try to figure out its meaning and then help others to understand that meaning.

² A **commentary** is a book in which the writer gives his/her opinion about what something means.

D. An **example** of this problem is found in the topic “**WORSHIP**”.

1. If you locate every place in your English Bible where the word “**worship**” is found, you will discover that there are **SEVERAL** original language words in the background and that there is not **one dedicated Greek** word translators identify that means the same as what people believe and practice about “**worship**” in English!
2. You will also discover that each of those different Greek words has its own unique simple meaning and in passages where it is **not** translated “**worship**” these same translators consistently used that meaning!
3. Translators/Theologians simply **picked out a select list** of passages and decided to translate them “**worship**” regardless of what their original words and their true meanings might be!
4. What this means is that **MEN and NOT GOD created the modern IDEA of “worship”** by combining the statements found in the list of verses **containing the English word** to form a “concept” or idea!
5. This is unacceptable behavior for a translator who is working with a message that is not his own!
6. **NO PERSON HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADD OR CHANGE GOD’S MESSAGE!**

ONCE AGAIN, IF THIS HAPPENS THEN IT IS WRONG!

E. What happened can be illustrated with the example of a **FRUIT SALAD!**

1. Let us say that we have several kinds of fruit;

- Apple
 - Orange
 - Pineapple
 - Banana
 - Mango
 - Watermelon
 - Papaya
 - Grapes
- ✓ **What is needed to make a fruit salad?**
 - ✓ **HOW MANY kinds of fruit do we need?**
 - ✓ **Do we have to use ALL of them?**
 - ✓ **Must YOU use the same ones as me?**

2. So... What shall we include in our fruit salad today?

- Apple
- Pineapple
- Papaya

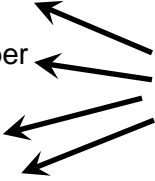
WHO decides what fruit will be included?

Banana Grapes
Orange Mango
Watermelon

Why were **THESE** left out?

F. How the idea of a fruit salad explains how “worship” came to exist.

1. People say and teach many things but MOST would agree that “worship” is;
 - What people go to a church building to do on Sunday.
 - What happens between the time of the “opening prayer” and the “closing prayer”.
2. There are many important things that people think Christians need to do. *(The list below is not complete but contains enough to illustrate the point we want to make.)*
 - Loving our neighbor
 - Singing
 - Be a good family member
 - Praying
 - Preaching
 - Being humble
 - What we do every day
 - Giving money
 - Lord’s Supper
 - What we do on Sunday
 - What we do between the “opening” and “closing” prayers
3. Is “worship” to be like a FRUIT SALAD? Can we simply put together the ones **we want** and leave out the others?

- Loving our neighbor
 - Be a good family member
 - Being humble
 - What we do every day
- 
**Why are THESE left out?
WHO decides?**

To some “WORSHIP” is...

Singing Praying Preaching
 Lord’s Supper What we do on Sunday
 What we do between the “opening” and “closing” prayers

G. How “worship” is like “fruit salad”...

1. Translators **DECIDED to mistranslate** certain Greek words in certain verses using the English word “worship” instead of the actual meaning of the words.
 - To say it is a mistranslation is not really accurate. It is not a case where the word banana is found in the original text and translators mistranslate it as, say, "apple". What has happened with “worship” would be like saying that in translating a certain document the word “banana” **usually** means the long yellow fruit we know it to be, but **in a particular sentence** even though it says, “banana”, **it was really supposed to mean “fruit salad!”**
 - And then, in the same document, when the word “watermelon” is found it **usually** means the red colored fruit with all the seeds in it, **except in a particular sentence** where even though it says, “watermelon”, **it was really supposed to mean “fruit salad!”**

- If you can imagine this happening with two or three additional kinds of fruit in the same document, then you can understand how we came to receive the **idea** known to us as worship!
2. Just as different people will choose different kinds of fruit to use in making a fruit salad, different groups of Bible translators came up with differing lists of verses³ in which to use the English word “**worship**”, thus creating several questions.
- **Why** did the different translators choose different verse lists? IF worship is based upon a standard word given by God then should they not consistently render it ALL places and should not all those places be the same no matter who is doing the translation?
 - Since different Bibles contain different lists of verses that contain the word worship then which Bible contains the **correct list** of verses?
 - **How can I know if the Bible I own has the correct list?**

Is your brain tired of thinking yet?

H. As we prepare to give our minds a break, the **FACTS** of the matter are **simple regarding the topic of “WORSHIP”**.

1. The concept of “**worship**”, as it is taught and practiced, is **NOT DEFINED BY GOD IN THE BIBLE**; a fact that most religious authors will admit in the “Introduction” of their books.
- There is no New Testament passage where God says what “**worship**” **is** and what it **is not!**
 - There is no New Testament passage where God says that **doing a certain thing IS “worship”** and **doing a certain thing IS NOT “worship”!**
 - There is **no passage where God says** that;
 - ✓ singing **is** “worship”
 - ✓ praying **is** “worship”
 - ✓ giving money **is** “worship”
 - ✓ taking the Lord’s Supper/Communion **is** “worship”
 - ✓ going to church on Sunday **is** “worship”
 - ✓ studying the Bible **is** “worship”
 - ✓ “**worship**” **is started** with a prayer
 - ✓ “**worship**” **is ended** with a prayer
 - ✓ meeting together is called a “**WORSHIP service**”

³ Please see **Appendix A** – located at the end of the booklet - for a chart of “**worship**” found in the Gospels in several English translations and take note of how the lists are different. If we were to get our beliefs and practices from the verses in these Bibles then different people will have different understandings about this topic depending upon which of these Bible translations they decide to use! In such case, whose idea would be right?

2. The idea that doing certain things “**IS worship**” comes from a combination of translators’ mistakes and religious leaders’ opinions that have accumulated over the past 2000 years!
3. If people teach and practice things that **are not defined by God in the Bible**, then these things come from “**human tradition**” and **ARE NOT THINGS** a Christian should approve and practice!
 - Some examples of familiar **human traditions**
 - ✓ the rosary
 - ✓ praying for the dead
 - ✓ confession to a priest
 - ✓ baptism of infants
 - ✓ purgatory
 - ✓ the sinner’s prayer
 - ✓ celestial marriage
 - ✓ once saved always saved
 - ✓ women pastors
 - ✓ predestination
 - ✓ reincarnation
 - ✓ “religious” holidays
 - ✓ the rapture
 - **WHY** do we not practice **these** things?
 - ✓ **God** does not define these things in the Bible and so we reject them as being “**human traditions**”.
 - If the topic/teaching of “**worship**” is defined by MAN and not BY GOD in the Bible, can we accept it and reject OTHER similar “teachings of men” **just because WE ALL LIKE THIS ONE?**
 - **NO PERSON HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADD OR CHANGE GOD’S MESSAGE!**

**FOR THE THIRD TIME TODAY,
THIS IS JUST WRONG!**

**IF GOD DID NOT GIVE
“WORSHIP” TO US, THEN
WITH GOD THE TOPIC DOES
NOT EXIST!**

*We will continue this discussion next
meeting!*

III. A LOOK AT THE GREEK WORDS FOR “WORSHIP”

A. While Bible translators disagree on which Greek words can be translated worship there are **THREE basic words** in the New Testament that are consistently translated “worship” in our Bibles today.⁴

1. PROSKUNEO – προσκυνέω

- The most common word, it meant “to bow the head to the ground”, or “to prostrate⁵ oneself.”
- The action is similar to what we see Muslims do in their daily prayers.
- It was a common thing in everyday life during **BOTH** the Old and New Testament times and **WAS NOT** exclusively a “religious” word.
- It **NEVER** meant, “to sing”, “to pray”, “to preach”, or “to eat the Lord’s Supper.”

PROSKUNEO had a specific meaning, and it was used in people’s everyday life. When it was used, people understood it to mean that someone was **bowing their face to the ground!**

2. LATREUO - λατρεύω

- This word meant “to serve.”
- It was the word New Testament people would use to represent someone serving in what people today refer to as a “job.”
- It could be a person hired for money or one serving as a slave⁶.
- This word **DID NOT** mean, “to bow down and touch the ground with the face” and you could not exchange this word’s meaning with the meaning of **proskuneo** any more than you could say that a watermelon is an orange!

LATREUO had a specific meaning, and it was used in people’s everyday life. When it was used, people understood it to mean that someone was **working in some sort of job, either for money or perhaps as a slave!**

3. SEBOMAI – σέβομαι

- This word meant, “to be devout”; devoted to someone or something.
- It could carry the idea of being devoted to someone out of a sense of fear or admiration or out of a sense of duty.
- It was a word that was commonly applied to people’s relationships with their “gods” or their “rulers”.
- This word **DID NOT** mean “to bow down” or “to serve in a job” and we could not exchange this word’s meaning with **proskuneo** and **latreuo** any more than we could say that a watermelon, an orange, and an apple are the same!

SEBOMAI also had a specific meaning. When it was used, people understood it to mean that someone **was devoted to someone or thing, either out of fear or admiration, or out of a sense of duty.**

⁴ Depending upon the translators’ choice, there can be as few as 6 or as many as 14 different words that are combined together in a translation!

⁵ The word **prostrate** means “to lie face down” or “to bow down low in submission”.

⁶ The usual Greek word for **slave** is **DOULOS**.

B. We **MUST** understand that behind the word **worship** in our Bibles there are **THREE different** words with three **different** meanings, and translators should not change these meanings unless context demands it.

watermelon
orange
apple

proskuneo
latreuo
sebomai

1. We cannot **combine** the meanings of the words together to **CREATE A NEW CONCEPT/TEACHING** based upon the different aspects of each word, and then **GIVE** that new idea a name (i.e. "worship").

- Are we free to join portions of God's message and make fruit salad?
- If the Bible message belongs to God then **ONLY GOD** can do that, and the truth is that **HE DID NOT DO IT** in the New Testament! Unlike the case of congregational leaders - called Elders - where God through the Apostle combined three Greek words (pastor, bishop, elder) together to create a concept neither the Lord nor any inspired writer combines these together and uses the word "worship" to represent this idea.
- **MEN** (translators and religious leaders) created "**worship**"!

NO PERSON has the authority to combine the meanings of the selected words together, create a concept or teaching based upon the different meanings of each word, give that idea a name (such as "worship"), and THEN REPLACE THE ORIGINAL WORDS GOD PLACED IN THE TEXT OF HIS NEW TESTAMENT MESSAGE WITH THEIR MAN-MADE WORD!

IV. A LOOK AT VERSES THAT WERE PUT TOGETHER TO CREATE THE CONCEPT OF "WORSHIP"

A. We will now look at **FOUR of the main passages**⁷ translators and theologians have combined together and translated "**worship**", find out which original words are in the text, and then see what **their TRUE meanings really are**.

1. John 4:20-24 – Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman at a well

RSV **John 4:20** Our fathers **worshiped** on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to **worship**." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you **worship** the Father. ²² You **worship** what you do not know; we **worship** what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true **worshippers** will **worship** the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to **worship** him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who **worship** him must **worship** in spirit and truth."

- **PROSKUNEO** is the only Greek word translated "**worship**" here in this whole paragraph (10 times in various forms).
- Jesus and the woman were talking about the practice of people coming before God and **bowing themselves down** to the ground.
- ✓ Please read carefully **Ezekiel 46:1-9**. Here the ancient Greek translation⁸ of the Old Testament has **proskuneo**.
 - The context here shows the people coming into the Temple to "bow down" (**proskuneo**) before Jehovah. (The translators use the English word "worship".)
 - Israel were told go inside and bow down and then go out using a different door.
 - This practice was still followed by the people in the time of the New Testament, as is evidenced by what we find in passages like **John 12:20** and **Acts 8:27**.
- ✓ **THIS practice** is the historical background of the discussion between Jesus and the woman. Remember that after Israel divided into Northern and Southern Kingdoms, **EACH ONE** had their own "temple". This woman was from the **NORTHERN Kingdom** and the nearby mountain she refers to is where their "temple" was located. Jerusalem was the location of the temple for the **SOUTHERN Kingdom**.
- ✓ They discussed **WHERE** the **CORRECT PLACE** was to **proskuneo** before Jehovah; "this mountain" or "Jerusalem".
- ✓ Jesus was not saying that **the MEANING** of the word **proskuneo** was going to **CHANGE**.
 - They **were not** speaking about "coming to church on Sunday" and "singing" or "preaching" or "praying" or "taking the Lord's Supper"!
 - The only **ACTION** they were speaking of was "**bowing down**" because that is what the word **proskuneo** meant!

⁷ The quoted passages in the lesson were taken from the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible.

⁸ Called the **Septuagint**.

- If we consider the **CONTEXT**⁹, Jesus was answering the woman by telling her that **TRUE proskuneo** was not dependent upon a place, but upon the condition of the heart of the person doing it!
 - ✓ Even a casual reading of the Old Testament will reveal that the Jews reached a point where their hearts were no longer with God and that for many of them **proskuneo**, like so many other things in their law, became a “ritual” they had to perform several times a year.
 - ✓ When Jesus arrived he found a “religion” based upon endless ceremonies and rituals with laws and traditions of men that had been inserted by religious leaders over the centuries.

2. Matthew 4:8-10 – Jesus is tempted by the Devil (also Luke 4:8)

^{RSV} **Matthew 4:8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and **worship** me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, `You shall **worship** the Lord your God and him only shall you **serve**.'"

- **PROSKUNEO** is the only Greek word being translated “**worship**”.
- The Devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would **proskuneo** to him.
 - ✓ The Devil wanted Jesus to “**bow down**” before him!
 - ✓ The Devil was **NOT** asking Jesus to build a “temple” or “church building” and call people together there regularly “to sing” and “pray” to him, in exchange for receiving these kingdoms.
- It is interesting to note that another of the translators’ “worship” words (**latreuo**) is also found here in verse 10 but the translators **DID NOT** translate it “**worship**” in this place.
 - ✓ If they had done so, the quotation would read, “*You will **worship** the Lord your God and you will **worship** him only!*”, and the meaning of the statement would be even more confusing.
 - ✓ The fact that these two Greek words are found in the same sentence shows us, from context alone, that they **have different meanings** and should not be combined together and translated with the same English word.
- It is important to point out the relationship between the two Greek words **proskuneo** and **latreuo** in the Bible.
 - ✓ In the Greek Old Testament, they are found together where the idea of people **1) bowing down [proskuneo]** and **2) serving [latreuo]** either the One True God or other gods is mentioned.¹⁰
 - ✓ A number of these passages speak of God telling the people that they will only **proskuneo AND latreuo HIM**, which helps us understand Jesus’ response.

⁹ The part of the passage that speaks of “worship in spirit and truth” is often used to regulate and define lists of things that are permissible for people to do as “acceptable worship” on Sundays. Doing such is a **GROSS** violation of the original context!

¹⁰ Old Testament passages with **proskuneo** and **latreuo** = “bow down” and “serve”. Exodus 20:5; 23:24, Deuteronomy 4:19; 5:9; 8:19; 11:16-17; 17:2-5, Joshua 23:7,16, Judges 2:19, 2 Kings 17:35, 2 Chronicles 7:19, Daniel 3:14, 18, 95; 6:26-27 – 22 verses.

3. Romans 12:1-2 – Paul calls Christians to be “living sacrifices”

^{RSV} **Romans 12:1** ¶ I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**.² Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- The Greek word being translated “**worship**” is **LATREUO**.
 - ✓ Remember that **latreuo** meant “serving”, like in a job.
 - ✓ **Latreuo** does not mean “**bowing down to the ground**”.
 - ✓ Translating **latreuo** and **proskuneo** using the same English word is **wrong** because their individual distinct meanings are lost!
- Notice how the translation listed above contains the phrase “**spiritual worship**.”
 - ✓ The word “**spiritual**” is **NOT** in the Greek text of this verse!
 - ✓ The Greek word that comes right before **latreuo** in the text of verse 1 is **logikos** and it is the word from which we get our English word “**LOGICAL**”. It meant, “**something that is considered reasonable**”, and yet some translators surprisingly translate it “spiritual”.
 - ✓ There **WAS** a Greek word, **pneumatikos**, which meant “spiritual” but this Greek word is **NOT** found in the text of this verse and so **ANY** Bible translation that contains the English word “spiritual” in verse 1 is an example of translators adding words to the Bible that have no relationship to the original language text!¹¹
- The accurate translation of the phrase here in verse 1 would be “**logical service**” or “**reasonable service**”.
- Please note that the **CONTEXT** of the passage is not speaking about Sunday, but “all the time”.
 - ✓ Note also that the writer does not point at any specific ACTS like “singing”, “praying”, “preaching”, “giving money”.
 - ✓ The writer points out that God wants his people to offer their lives in “living sacrifice”, by changing the way they think (a renewal of the mind), and that doing this is a “logical” or “reasonable” on the part of God – when we consider all God has done for us!

4. Matthew 15:7-9 – Jesus accuses the people of “lip service”

^{RSV} **Matthew 15:7** You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:⁸ “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;⁹ in vain do they **worship** me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”

- The Greek word found here is **SEBOMAI**.

¹¹ See **Appendix B** for a listing of translations and how they handled this phrase in Romans 12:1.

- Remember that **sebomai** meant, “being **devoted** to something” and so translating it as “**worship**” here is also a **wrong translation**.
- The point Jesus is making here is that the **devotion** of the people became useless because they taught the commands of men as if they were “teachings” from God!
- This is an important point to remember in the discussion of **THIS** topic! **ANY** time we accept the teachings that come from men God becomes angry!

B. Does the **modern teaching of WORSHIP** come from the Bible text, or from the translators?

1. There is **no evidence** that any writers of the New Testament **combined TOGETHER the Greek words proskuneo, latreuo, and sebomai** to form the idea of “**worship**”.
2. The writers of the original New Testament message **DID NOT MAKE A NEW GREEK WORD** to represent the idea of “**worship**” and then replace the words in the original verses of the New Testament with that Greek word!
3. **IT WAS TRANSLATORS** who ...
 - combined these Greek words together to form a concept,
 - gave the concept the name “worship”,
 - inserted that word **IN THE PLACE OF THE ORIGINAL WORD GOD INTENDED FOR YOU TO SEE!**
4. Unless some error in our analysis of the situation can be found it leaves us with no other conclusion. **The modern practice of WORSHIP is FROM MAN, more specifically from the Bible translators, and not from God!**

WHAT THE TRANSLATORS DID
WAS WRONG BECAUSE NO
PERSON HAS THE AUTHORITY
TO CHANGE GOD’S MESSAGE!
A TRANSLATOR’S
RESPONSIBILITY IS TO
ACCURATELY TRANSLATE A
MESSAGE FROM ONE
LANGUAGE INTO ANOTHER.

We will continue this discussion next meeting!

V. IF COMING TOGETHER ON SUNDAY IS NOT CALLED “WORSHIP” THEN WHAT IS IT?

A. The New Testament speaks of a special Sunday gathering of Christians called an “**assembly**”.

1. The Greek word **EKKLESIA** and meant “a group of people called out from their houses for a purpose”.¹²

- This is the Greek word from which translators got our English word “**church**” and whenever you see “church” in the New Testament, you will find **ekklesia** behind it in the original text.
- The word **ekklesia** **WAS NOT a religious word**. An example of this is found in **Acts 19:23-40** where it is used to describe a gathering that context definitely reveals is **NOT** a group of Christians coming together for an “assembly”.
 - ✓ There was a riot in Ephesus over Paul and the “idol making” business!
 - ✓ In **verses 32, 39, and 40** the word **ekklesia** is found referring to the gathering of the citizens in the riot!
 - ✓ Whether **ekklesia** is “religious” or not can only be determined by **context** – how it is used in the sentence.

2. The earliest passages of Christianity speak of members “meeting together”: **Acts 2:41-47**.

- Verse 41 - In the city of Jerusalem, on the Day of Pentecost¹³ about **3,000 people became** Christians!
- Verse 42 - They were faithful to the teachings of the Apostles.
- Verses 44-45 - They took care of and gave support to those of their fellow members who had needs.
- Verse 46 - They **MET TOGETHER DAILY** in the Temple and ate together in their homes.
- All these and more, day-by-day, were **added by the Lord to the group** – verse 47.

3. We also have a couple of additional references to the practice of **gathering** on the “**first day of the week**”, which is Sunday!

- **Acts 20:7**
 - ✓ Paul was traveling on a missionary journey.
 - ✓ He was in the city of Troas on the “**first day of the week**”¹⁴.
 - ✓ The Christians had **gathered together** “to break bread”¹⁵ and **NOT** because Paul was there. He took advantage of the gathering and spoke to the people.

¹² The Greek language also uses several verbs to represent the idea of “coming together” and these are used in connection with the **EKKLESIA**. 1) **SUNERCHOMAI** – “I come or go together”. 2) **SUNAGO** and **EPISUNAGO** – “I gather together”

¹³ A Jewish festival, called the “**Feast of Weeks**”, was celebrated 50 days after the Jewish feast called “The Passover”. The events in Acts 2 happened about 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

¹⁴ The first day of the week is **Sunday**.

- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

- ✓ Paul was traveling on a missionary journey to collect and bring to Jerusalem financial assistance for Christians there who were suffering due to famine and persecution.
- ✓ He gives these people – along with others he wrote living in the region of Galatia - instructions for collecting and storing up money until he comes.
- ✓ He tells them to take up a collection of money when they meet **on the first day of the week** and set that aside and store it up so that when he arrives he will not have to go house-to-house to collect money from people.
- ✓ This passage shows us that there was a regular Sunday gathering in Corinth.

4. Unlike the Old Testament, there is **no TEMPLE building** in the New Testament that Christians are to build and use for the **assembly**.

- **Acts 17:22-25**

- ✓ As Paul was entering the city of Athens he passed many temples along the way.
- ✓ In a speech to the people he informed them of two important things about God;
 - He **does not live in buildings** (temples) made with human hands.
 - He **does not need to be waited on by us**.

- God **does not live in CHURCH BUILDINGS!**

B. The book of 1 Corinthians contains the most detail about what was done in the “**assembly**” during the time of the New Testament.

1. **1 Corinthians 14:26-40** gives us a “picture” of what an early Christian **assembly** was like in the city of Corinth.¹⁵

- You will notice that there are **no commands as far as specific activities that should or should not be done**.
- However, there are **certain guiding principles** that Paul gives the people...
 - ✓ 26 – All things should **build people up!**
 - ✓ 40 – All things should **be done decently!**
 - ✓ 40 – All things should **be done in an orderly way!**

2. **1 Corinthians 11:17-34** speaks of the “Lord’s Super” as being something that was done **when they came together IN THE ASSEMBLY**.

- It was **a remembrance of Christ’s death**.
- It was **a time of examination of the Christian’s life**.

¹⁵ This could either be a reference to eating a meal together, or some believe that this might be a reference to “The Lord’s Supper”.

¹⁶ Note that the word “**assembly**” is used 9 times in this passage. Note also that this passage is the only place **proskuneo** is also used inside of the assembly but it is done by an outsider when he is convicted in his heart.

- It was a **proclamation of Christ's death**.
- From the context of the passage we can see that it was a **serious matter** because **God KILLED** some of those people there who **did not take the matter seriously!**

3. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** speaks of Paul instructing them to take up a collection of money **when** they come together on the **first day of the week**.

- The practice of Christians giving money to help needy brothers and sisters was **NOT** new to the Corinthians because helping needy brethren was part of the "Apostles teaching" that all were taught when they became Christians.
- This **NEW** instruction was done **as a matter of convenience**.
- The money was specifically collected **for helping other Christians**.

C. The New Testament speaks of the "**assembly**" as being important for personal growth and survival.

1. **Hebrews 10:25** speaks of "not neglecting the **gathering of yourselves together**", which evidently was the "habit" of some people.

- This statement about "gathering together" is **not** a command!
 - ✓ There are actually **three commands** in this passage that begins in verse 21 and continues through 25.
 - "**Let us come near** with a true heart" – verse 22
 - "**Let us hold on to** the confession of our faith" – verse 23
 - "**Let us consider** how to provoke one another to love and good works" – verse 24
 - ✓ Verse 25 adds, "**WHILE not neglecting** the gathering of yourselves together..."
- The "**assembly**" is **not** like going to the temple in the time of the Old Testament.
- The "**assembly**" is where we get encouragement and motivation to continue our struggle against evil!
- The "**assembly**" is a tool God has given to help us survive and grow!
- It is the place where God's "group of believers" spends time together to become a strong family!

VI. SUMMARY and CONCLUSION

- A. The idea we know as "**WORSHIP**" is not defined by God in the Bible!
- B. It has come to us through 2000 years of translation errors and opinions of religious people. (It is a tradition of men!)
- C. The original language of the New Testament (Greek) does not have a word that means "**worship**".
- D. It was **MEN** who willfully took certain passages and **mishandled them** to create what we know as "**worship**".

- E. It was **MEN** who then took the word “**worship**” and replaced the original words of the New Testament text in the selected verses to make it appear to the ordinary person that “**worship**” is what God’s word really says.
- F. It was **MEN** who defined “worship” as the list of things done on Sunday, which they even call “**acts of worship**”. (*The phrase “acts of worship” cannot be found in the New Testament.*)
- G. It was **MEN** who came up with the idea of God’s Spirit dwells in church buildings, that these buildings are the proper place to “**worship**” God, and as special places they require people to use special behavior.
- H. The New Testament speaks of “**the assembly**”, which is the **weekly gathering** of Christians **for the purpose of remembering Jesus, building up one another, and stirring up one another to love and to work!**

In this study we set out to explore the idea know as “**worship**” and we discovered that **MEN** created a concept/teaching that **DID NOT** exist during the time of the New Testament.

Even though “**worship**” is popular and might even be said to be “glorifying” to God, it is nonetheless **not something GOD instructed** Christians to do. Since it does not come from God it is therefore a “tradition of men”. The Jews of Jesus’ time believed in God, they did religious things, and they even had a grand temple in which to approach God. However, Jesus stated that their efforts to be “devoted” to God were useless because they were teaching and following the traditions of men. **Our time can be no different!**

If you go back to the Old Testament, you can see many similarities between modern “**worship**” and the temple rituals of ancient Israel. You even see church buildings today being referred to as “**sanctuaries**”¹⁷ with special beliefs about “God’s presence” being in them and special rules about what can and cannot be done inside of them **BECAUSE** of God’s presence in them. This is **NOT** found in the teachings of the New Testament and it appears to be a return to the temple rites of Israel. Which is the correct understanding, “modern religion” or what the Apostle Paul told the Athenians in Acts 17?

All of this is very far away from what the text of the New Testament teaches. The man-made teaching of “**worship**” has taken the useful and meaningful tool of the “**assembly**”, in which God asks us to concentrate upon doing things to build one another up to be strong and prepared and “stir one another up” for another week of struggle, and turned it into a time where the focus is upon each person showing God how sorry they are for their failings, showing God how much they love him, and giving **HIM** glory and honor.

There is no place in the New Testament where Christians are told to go to the assembly and **proskuneo** before Jehovah¹⁸, the way Israel and its leaders and priests were told to do in the Temple! The problem is that anyone can go to a temple and bow down before the deity! Does that

¹⁷ This is a reference to the special place in the Old Testament temple where the presence of God lived.

¹⁸ As stated earlier, the **ONLY PLACE** after Jesus leaves where we find **proskuneo** in an assembly of Christians is in 1 Corinthians 14:25. **Proskuneo** does also appear numerous times in Revelation.

bowing down mean that the heart of the person is focused on the deity? This was in fact the actual point Jesus was making to the woman at the well in John 4! True **proskuneo** must be with the right heart! How do we achieve the right heart? It is done through keeping the promise commitment we made to God in the water of our baptism. It means being faithful at **ALL** times to do what we promised God we would do; obey him! (**1 Corinthians 10:13**) If we say that we know God and **do NOT do** what he says, John says that we are “liars” and the truth is not in us, but if we **DO** what he says then HIS love has truly arrived at its goal in us! (**1 John 2:3-6**) In **Matthew 7:21-23**, Jesus spoke of “religious people” who were active in works, possessed miraculous powers, and all the while gave glory to God and credit to Jesus, and **STILL he declared that he NEVER knew them!** We wondered how this could be? The answer was a simple one. Jesus stated that the problem was that they did not do **the things GOD said to do in HIS WILL!**

People might object to this study and ask, “What is **wrong** with **WORSHIPPING** God?” We might just as well ask what is wrong with “praying for the dead” or “baptizing babies”, or “saying a prayer to receive Jesus as Savior”, or any of the **other “popular”** beliefs and practices in the religious world today that are also **NOT DEFINED BY GOD** in the Bible! Just because millions of people are practicing **them** does not justify their existence. Do we not already have enough things to do from the things God **DOES** tell us about? A Christian has the responsibility to follow only what God tells him/her to do and no matter how good or sincere their intentions might be **no person or group has the right to add new things for people to do!**¹⁹

So in closing, let us not forget **the FACTS** we discovered.

- 1) **GOD** did not create the idea/teaching of “**worship**.”
- 2) **GOD** states clearly that on Sunday we are to come to “**the assembly**”.
- 3) **GOD** does not say that if we build special buildings then his presence will live in them and we should go to these buildings and “**worship**” him.
- 4) No New Testament passage instructs Christians to **proskuneo**, **latreuo**, or **sebomai** during the Sunday assembly!

God tells us about **the assembly** and its **PURPOSE**, and we discovered that **it is NOT for what people call “worship”**. Never forget that the word “**worship**” has **no origin** in the text of the New Testament and that when you see that word in your Bible you are looking at a word that was created by men and inserted **IN PLACE OF the original word that God intended for you to see!**

There can be no argument that Christians **SHOULD** show God how sorry they are for their mistakes, that they **SHOULD** show God how much they love him, or that they **SHOULD** give God glory and honor! They should sing praises to Him and seek Him in prayer. They can gather and do these things in groups or alone in their private rooms. However, the proper time and place to do these things is **ALL THE TIME** and **IN EVERY PLACE!** These should not be the **dominant activities in the assembly**. Why not? It is

¹⁹ The principle behind this was discovered back in the time of original Christianity when the Christians from a Jewish background tried to force non-Jewish Christians to accept their traditional customs in order to be accepted as Christian brothers. Acts 15!

NOTES:

because the assembly **IS NOT** a return to the temple rituals of Israel and God because has assigned to the assembly a different purpose! We must do what he wants done in the assembly, not what **WE** want!

If a Christian wants to **SHOW** God something then it should be done **THROUGH THEIR DAILY LIFE!** Do we want to **show** God how sorry we are for our mistakes? Good! Then let us learn from them and do not make them a second time! Do we want to **show** God how much we love him? Good! Then let us **KEEP HIS COMMANDS!** Do we want to give God glory and honor? Wonderful! Let us follow the example of Jesus and be the obedient child we promised when we stood in the water of our baptism! Let us never forget that our main responsibility as individuals is to be "light" and "salt" and "perfume" and that collectively we are to be a family that shows AGAPE so that the world will know that we are HIS disciples!

As a closing thought to this study, consider what Paul wrote in **Colossians 3:17** - **“And whatever you might do in word or in work, you do all things in the name of our Lord Jesus giving thanks to God through him!”**

Thank You!

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APPENDIX A

WHICH TRANSLATION HAS THE CORRECT LIST?

A sample listing of the English word “**worship**” as found in the Gospels of the King James Version (KJV), American Standard Version (ASV), Revised Standard Version (RSV), New International Version (NIV), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translations, English Standard Version (ESV), and New English Translation (NET).²⁰

Blank spaces in a column indicate the translation does **NOT** use the English word WORSHIP in that verse.

Book	Translation and Year Published						
	KJV (1611)	ASV (1901)	RSV (1952)	NIV (1973)	NRSV (1989)	ESV (2001)	NET (2004)
Matthew	2:2	2:2	2:2	2:2	2:2	2:2	2:2
	2:8	2:8	2:8	2:8	2:8	2:8	2:8
	2:11	2:11	2:11	2:11	2:11		
	4:9	4:9	4:9	4:9	4:9	4:9	4:9
	4:10	4:10	4:10	4:10	4:10	4:10	4:10
	8:2	8:2					
	9:18	9:18					
	14:33	14:33	14:33	14:33	14:33		
	15:9	15:9	15:9	15:9	15:9	15:9	15:9
	15:25	15:25					
	18:26	18:26					
	20:20	20:20					
	28:9	28:9	28:9	28:9			
	28:17	28:17	28:17	28:17			
	Mark	5:6	5:6	5:6			
7:7		7:7	7:7	7:7	7:7	7:7	7:7
15:19		15:19			15:19		
Luke				1:10			
		2:37	2:37	2:37			
	4:7	4:7	4:7	4:7	4:7	4:7	4:7
	4:8	4:8	4:8	4:8	4:8	4:8	4:8
	14:10						
24:52	24:52		24:52				
John	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:20	4:20
	4:21	4:21	4:21	4:21	4:21	4:21	4:21
	4:22	4:22	4:22	4:22	4:22	4:22	4:22
	4:23	4:23	4:23	4:23	4:23	4:23	4:23
	4:24	4:24	4:24	4:24	4:24	4:24	4:24
	9:31	9:31	9:31		9:31		
	9:38	9:38	9:38	9:38			
	12:20	12:20	12:20	12:20		12:20	12:20

There are six (6) different Greek words represented in this list. In addition, there are other places in the Gospels where these words are located, but these translators did not translate them “worship”. Why are the translators inconsistent? Why are more modern translations becoming MORE inconsistent with earlier ones? **Which one is correct?**

²⁰ Lists generated using the program BibleWorks, Version 7, by BibleWorks, LLC.

APPENDIX B

A Dated List of Translations of the Phrase “λογικὴν²¹ λατρείαν²²” in **Romans 12:1** as found in 37 English Translations

Version	Wording	Date
1. Tyndale	reasonable seruynge	1534
2. Coverdale	reasonable seruynge	1535
3. Bishop's New Testament	reasonable seruce	1595
4. Geneva Bible	reasonable seruing	1599
5. King James Version	reasonable service	1611
6. Noah Webster Bible	reasonable service	1833
7. Young's Literal	intelligent service	1862
8. Darby Bible	intelligent service.	1884
9. English Revised Version	reasonable service	1885
10. Douay-Rheims Bible	reasonable service	1899
11. American Standard Version	spiritual ²³ service	1901 ²⁴
12. Moffatt's Translation	your cult a spiritual rite	1922
13. Revised Berkeley Version	reasonable service	1945
14. Bible In Basic English	worship ²⁵ it is right for you to give him	1949
15. New World Translation	sacred service with your power of reason	1950
16. Revised Standard Version	spiritual worship	1952
17. Phillips Modern English	act of intelligent worship	1957
18. Self Interpreting New Testament	reasonable service	1958
19. New English Bible	the worship offered by mind and heart	1961
20. Jerusalem Bible	worship in a way that is worthy of thinking beings	1966
21. Living Bible	when you think of what he has done for you is it too much to ask	1971
22. New International Version (1973)	spiritual worship	1973
23. TEV/Good News	true worship that you should offer	1976
24. New American Standard Version	spiritual service of worship	1977
25. Simple English Bible	true worship	1978
26. New King James Version	reasonable service	1979
27. New International Version (1984)	spiritual act of worship	1984
28. New Jerusalem Bible	kind of worship for you, as sensible people	1985
29. Easy To Read	the spiritual way for you to worship God	1987
30. New Century Version	spiritual way for you to worship	1987
31. New Revised Standard Version	spiritual worship	1989
32. New American Bible	spiritual worship	1991
33. God's Word to the Nations	kind of worship is appropriate for you	1995
34. English Standard Version	spiritual worship.	2001
35. Contemporary English Version	the most sensible way to serve God	2004
36. New Living Translation	truly the way to worship him	2004
37. New English Translation	reasonable service	2004

Note 1: Those written in **bold type** are accurate translations of the phrase.

Note 2: All English translation before 1900 (see line) translated this phrase accurately! Most of them that came after 1900 have not!

²¹ This Greek word means “reasonable” or “logical”, and is where we get our English word “logical”.

²² This Greek word means “service” such as the kind given by someone who is hired to do a job.

²³ The Greek word for “spiritual” is πνευματικός, which is **NOT found** in the Greek text or in any variants of the Greek text!

²⁴ The American Standard Version is the first English translation to use the word “spiritual” for the Greek word λογικός in this passage.

²⁵ The Bible in Basic English is the first English translation to use “worship” for the Greek word λατρεία in this passage.