

pleases You to take the child, we will accept Your will, but if it pleases You to show mercy to us, we ask You to heal him.' It is proper to pray, and our worship should not replace our prayer. But we must worship first and then pray. Prayer is saying what I want; **worship is acknowledging what God wants.** Prayer expresses our desire; worship expresses God's desire. Prayer expresses our will, while **worship expresses God's will.**

"How we need to learn from Moses' actions in Exodus 34:8-9! He saw that God was severe, and he could do nothing but kneel and bow down to the ground. Moses did not reason with God. Moses did not ask Him what would happen if He carried out such a punishment. He did not say, 'If You do not forgive their sin, what will the Israelites do? If You visit their iniquity to the third or fourth generation, what will I do? I have led the people in vain. Forty years have passed already; I cannot wait for three or four generations. I am finished. I have worked in vain.' Moses did not exhort God to change. Instead, Moses worshipped. I do not know what to say. The greatest need among Christians today is to learn the lesson of knowing God's ways and embracing them. It does not matter how it affects me or what I want. (Moses had a desire. It was a consuming desire of his to enter the land of Canaan.) However, Moses first said, 'You are right in whatever You want; I worship You.' Brothers and sisters, we must not only learn to do God's will and accept His work; we also need to love God's ways and His decisions. We must like what God likes."

Note: Text in quotations are based upon the booklet, *Worshipping the Ways of God*, by Watchman Nee.

Bold type and/or underlining have been added for emphasis.

Prayer Burdens

1. Pray for the Grade 6 weekly Saturday evening meetings, which will begin this coming Saturday, Mar. 1st 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at Hall 3. May the Lord uphold the serving ones for the next 4 months and lead the children to experience a personal touch with the Lord for their salvation.
2. Pray for the college work, which has received some blessings from the Lord on the U of T campus this year. Many new ones have been gained and others who are not yet saved are still among them.
3. Pray for the Chinese-speaking Disciples' Camp (Level 1) on Mar. 20th to 23rd to be held at the Huntington House in Cleveland, Ohio.

Announcements:

The church in Toronto

Twelve Baskets Full Week 13

March 4 - March 16, 2008

Worshipping the Ways of God, Part 1

Weekly Bible Reading:

Genesis 24:1-67; Exodus 3:1-4:31; 33:1-34:17; Acts 3:1-26

Hymns:

350, 406, 587, 433, 701

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

John 4:23-24

- 23** But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- 24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

John 20:28-31

- 28** Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!
- 29** Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.
- 30** Moreover indeed many other signs also Jesus did before His disciples, which are not written in this book.
- 31** But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

"We must deal with one matter before God. If we truly intend to be worshippers of God, it is impossible to just worship Him. I am not saying that we should not worship God. We must worship God, but please remember that a day will come when God opens our eyes to know Him as more than just our Father; we will know Him also as our God. We need to see that we are not only His children but also His bondservants. When we see this revelation and meet God as God, we immediately will worship Him. However, we should not stop there. Whenever we have a revelation of God and meet Him, the result should be that we accept His ways. The result of seeing and knowing God is that we accept God's ways.

"God's holy Word shows us that we must know God and we must know His ways. God Himself can only be known by revelation, and God's ways can only be known through submission. We know God Himself through His revelation, and we know the ways of God by being willing to be dealt with and by submitting to Him."

What are the Ways of God?

"What are the ways of God? The ways in which God deals with us are His ways. His ways entail what He wants to do. The ways of God are the choices He makes concerning us. These are the ways of God. His ways are higher than our ways (Isa. 55:9). He has His own ordinations, and there is no room for our choice. He deals with this person in this manner and with another person in that manner. His ways are what He deems best. The ways of God imply that God acts according to His desire and choice.

"Many people balk at the fact that, without an unveiling of God to man, we cannot accept

God's ways. We must first have revelation before we can accept God's ways. We ask, 'Why did God love Jacob and not Esau?' We feel that God was not fair to Esau, and we even feel indignant about the way Esau was treated. We think that Esau was a very good man who was cheated out of everything. Jacob was the one who was bad. Yet God said, 'Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated' (Rom. 9:13). Yet still we reason about this. Those who reason in this way have not seen God. Those who have seen Him know that He is God. God can act according to His pleasure. He does what makes Him happy. He is God. No one can tell Him how He should act. He does not need counselors or advisors. He does not need an advisory board to tell Him how to do things. He does what He pleases. These are the ways of God.

"The ways of God are His choices. The ways of God are what He wants to do. He wants to do things this way, and He wants to deal with us in that way. He wants to accomplish this matter but not something else. He wants us to encounter this circumstance but not that one. These are the ways of God."

Tuesday & Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Proverbs 3:6

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Genesis 24:26-27, 48a, 52

26 And the man bowed and worshipped Jehovah.

27 And he said, Blessed be Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His faithfulness toward my master. As for me, Jehovah has led me in the way...

48 And I bowed and worshipped Jehovah and blessed Jehovah...who had led me in the right way...

52 And when Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed down to the earth to Jehovah.

1 Corinthians 6:20

20 ...you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 10:31b

31 ...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Not Stopping with the Worship of God

"As we have already pointed out, when a person receives a revelation concerning God and he sees that He is God and that man is man, he only can bow down and worship. But we must not stop there because this is too abstract. We must immediately say, 'God, I worship You, and I worship Your ways. I do not just worship You, I also worship Your ways.' Our heart must be brought by God to the point of bowing down before Him and saying, 'I see that I should not only worship You, but also what You have and what pleases You. I should worship what You choose. I should worship what You have ordained for me. I should worship what You are pleased to bring upon me. I should worship You for the things You do not want me to pursue.' Brothers and sisters, it is easy to worship God while we are gathered here in the meeting because there is no price to pay. But let me repeat that all true worship comes from knowing God and receiving a revelation of God. Thank God, I know Him; therefore, I fall before Him, saying, 'Everything You have done is right. You are never wrong.' This is the way to accept the ways of God. "We learn to walk step by step. If we want to learn to walk before God, we will have no

God on the one hand and went down the mountain to deal with matters on the other. Thereafter, he ascended the mountain again and in obedience to God's command hewed two more tablets of stone. With these in his hand, he went to the top of Mount Sinai. There God made a solemn proclamation. First He said, 'The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin' (34:6-7). If at this point Moses had fallen down and worshipped God, it would not have been surprising; but what is amazing is that he made haste to do so after the second part of the proclamation. The second part was totally different from the first. The first part spoke of God's compassion, grace, mercy, and forgiveness, but in the second part He said, 'And that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.' When God had proclaimed the awe of His majesty, 'Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped' (v. 8). Please bear in mind that knowing God is not merely a matter of grace. If it were just a matter of grace, it would be all over and there would be no problem, but we need to know God's holiness.

"I love verses 8 and 9 in chapter thirty-four. In the latter verse Moses prays, but in the former he worships. He worships and then prays. He acknowledges the rightness of God's ways and then seeks God's grace. He did not say, 'You are slow to anger, full of compassion, and ready to forgive, so please have mercy on us and do not do as You plan.' We would pray in this way. We always love to pray, 'Do not do what You are going to do. Even though this is Your way, do not do it.' Moses was very different from us. He took his proper place before God and confessed that God's ways were right. Brothers and sisters, have we ever acknowledged that God's ways are right? Have we ever asked God to do anything that we knew was contrary to His ways of working? Have we ever besought Him to forgive a certain brother and cease to discipline him even when we know that His dealings with that brother were right? If we pray like this, we are not worshipping God. We are, in effect, saying, 'O God, please change Your ways. Do not give him a burden, do not let him be sick, do not let him have domestic difficulties.' Praying in this way is seeking grace and ignoring the ways of God. In our prayer, we are making ourselves too big; we are not identifying ourselves with God's way. Moses first acknowledged God's authority and His ways. God declared that He would by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. Moses instantly submitted, saying, 'O God, You are right, Your ways are right, and I worship You. Since You have decided to do this and because this is Your way, I can only worship You.' Thereafter, he prayed that if he had found grace in God's sight, God would still go up in the midst of His people. He prayed for grace, but only after he had worshipped God.

"Sometimes we may visit a brother's home and discover that his child is sick. As we kneel with the husband and wife to pray, we immediately sense that God is not worshipped in this house. We know that God never receives worship in this place. As soon as they kneel in prayer, they say, 'O God, heal my child.' The first words from their mouths are, 'O God, my child must not die; You must heal him.' They are telling God what to do. They are deciding God's ways for Him. When they open their mouths, we know that God is not worshipped. I am not saying that we do not know God as our Father. Let me repeat that we need to know God not only as our Father, but as God. It is one thing to be the Father, and it is an entirely different thing to be God. We may visit another brother's home, and again there may be a sick child. When we kneel in prayer with the parents, they pray, 'God, we praise You that You are always right. We praise You for allowing our child to become sick. You are never wrong, so we worship You. Everything You do is good. If it

worship You. These are Your ways. You are God.

“O brothers and sisters, these are the ways of God! ...We can only bow our head and fall before Him, saying, ‘God, I worship You. You not only have grace, but also You take wonderful ways to dispense Your grace.’ The children of Israel did not merely give thanks to God upon seeing this; they also worshipped Him.

“At the breaking of the bread, as we contemplate His grace in saving, justifying, and regenerating sinners like ourselves, and in making us become His children, we offer thanks to God. But when we think of the way in which He forgave our sins, the process He went through to justify us, and the pains He took to pull us out of the muck and mire from among the thousands of other people around us, and when we think of how we happened to be in a certain church and happened to hear a particular gospel message preached by just the right person, and how that enabled us to receive Him, we remember God’s ways. We will offer not only thanks but also worship. We will worship the God who orders our way. When we know the ways of God, we cannot refrain from worshipping Him.

“There is a marvelous point in this verse. When the children of Israel heard the word, they bowed their heads and worshipped. Moses did not teach them this; Moses did not tell them that they should worship. He just spoke the word of God to them, and they simply worshipped. Worship does not require instruction, exhortation, or mental exercise. When we see the ways of God, we spontaneously worship Him.”

Friday & Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Exodus 33:12-14

- 12 And Moses said to Jehovah, See, You say to me, Bring up this people; but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, I know you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.
- 13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.
- 14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

Exodus 34:8-9

- 8 ...Moses made haste and bowed to the ground and worshipped.
- 9 And he said, If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, let the Lord please go in our midst; although they are a stiffnecked people, You pardon our iniquity and our sin and take us for Your inheritance.

Acts 3:8-9

- 8 And leaping up and about, he stood and began to walk, and he entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God.
- 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Worshipers of God's Ways, cont'd

4) Worshipping God at the Proclamation of His Ways

“In Exodus 32—34 we read of a serious difficulty that Moses encountered. God gave him two tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments written on them. While Moses was still on the mountain, trouble broke out among the Israelites at the foot of the mount. The people made a golden calf and worshipped it. This provoked God to great displeasure and He said to Moses... [read Exo. 32:7-10]. God was furious, so Moses pleaded with

future unless we can learn to worship the ways of God—not just to worship God. **Our entire spiritual future hinges on our ability to worship the ways of God.** Thus, all who know God must be brought to the point of saying, ‘I worship the ways of God. I worship the things that God has ordained for me. I worship the things God has done to me. I worship God for what He is pleased to do in me. I worship God for the things He strips from me.’

The Worshipers of God's Ways

“Let us consider a few of the worshippers of God in the Old Testament to see how they worshipped God. We will see the ways of God from the examples of God’s worshippers in the Old Testament.

1) Worshipping God for a Prosperous Journey

“The ways of God are what God wants to do in us. Our first illustration is found in Genesis 24. Recall the story in which Abraham said to the servant who ruled over all that he had, ‘Go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac’ (v. 4). This was a formidable undertaking. Abraham was living in Canaan. In order to reach Mesopotamia one had to cross the Jordan River, the Euphrates River, and the stretch of desert lying between them. It was a difficult matter for a servant to go to a strange place a great distance away and persuade a young woman to accept this offer of marriage. Eliezer, however, was looking to God. Although it seemed as if he was going to the ends of the earth to seek Abraham’s relatives and find a woman, he was trusting in God. The record in the Scriptures about his trip is very marvelous. It says that when he came unto Nahor, the city of Abraham, he prayed...: [read Gen. 24:12-14]. This prayer seems difficult to answer. But he had not even finished praying when Rebekah arrived at the well.

“We all know the story here and that to the detail everything transpired as he had requested. But what if this damsel was not of Abraham’s family? As we know, the type here is of Christ and the church, both being of one family. ‘He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One’ (Heb. 2:11). Rebekah needed to be of the same source as Isaac. What if she was of another race like Syrian or Babylonian? So Eliezer asked about her family background. Yes, she was Abraham’s kin. Eliezer immediately bowed his head and worshipped the Lord (Gen. 24:23-27). Do we see? These are the ways of God. If we only will learn to acknowledge the Lord in all our paths as in Proverbs 3:6, we will be acknowledging God in His ways. If we request Him to do this and that and believe, looking trustfully to Him, then when things happen according to our requests, we will worship Him. Thus, we will not worship God merely because He is God; we also worship Him for His actions. Eliezer immediately bowed his head and worshipped the Lord as if to say, ‘You have given grace to me. You have given grace to me as You have given grace to my master Abraham, and You have led me in the way.’

“Brothers and sisters, do we see what it means to worship God? It means to render all glory to Him. Giving glory to God does not mean that we meet with a situation which turns out well after prayer and then we say that we were lucky, that things fell into place at the right time, or that we did things well ourselves. One who knows and has seen God is one who can do nothing but bow down and worship when he sees God do something. Abraham’s servant did not even stop to talk with Rebekah. The first thing he did was worship God. He did not feel embarrassed; he instantly bowed his head and said, ‘God, I worship You.’

“What is worship? **Worship is giving glory to God when He has His way with us.** Giving glory to God is worship. Have I made myself sufficiently clear? I hope that we would see the connection between glory and worship. Giving glory to God is worshipping

Him. The glory we give to God can never be more than worship. Bowing before Him is the worship He receives from us. Worship is being able to bow before God and say to Him, 'I submit to You.' The proud cannot worship God. Proud people can never worship God because when their way is prosperous, they attribute it to their own ability or to chance. They say, 'I was smart to do this or to say this.' They think, 'I was lucky to meet this person.' This kind of person can never give glory to God because He does not worship God. Being a true worshipper of God is offering praise and thanksgiving to Him for everything He has done for us and everything He has given us along the way. Let me say that many times we will not be able to refrain from bowing down and giving glory to God. We will have no other choice but to say, 'God, I worship You.'

"...here was a person who knew God and saw His acts. He had a special trait. Even when his way was prospered to such an extent, he did not rejoice or thank those he was with, he just bowed down to the earth unto the Lord (v. 52). This is real worship."

"...if we really want to worship God, we will find again and again that He gives us many opportunities to worship Him. When the old servant arrived at the gate of the village, he worshipped God, and he worshipped again at the door of Laban's home. When he got inside, he worshipped yet again. When we worship God the first time, He will give us a second opportunity to worship Him. God will do one thing to cause us to worship in speechless wonder. Then He will do something else for which we cannot help but worship Him. Many times God will give us a prosperous way. In these times, we must confess that it is not by our own hand or ordination. It did not happen because we are capable, but because Jehovah did it all. Jehovah led us; therefore, all the glory should go to Him."

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Exodus 4:31

31 And the people believed; and when they heard that Jehovah had visited the children of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed and worshipped.

Romans 9:25b-26

25 ..."I will call those who were not My people My people, and her who was not beloved beloved;

26 And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, You are not My people, there shall they be called sons of the living God."

1 Corinthians 11:24-26

24 And having given thanks, He broke it and said, This is My body, which is given for you; this do unto the remembrance of Me.

25 Similarly also the cup after they had dined, saying, This cup is the new covenant established in My blood; this do, as often as you drink it, unto the remembrance of Me.

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you declare the Lord's death until He comes.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Worshipers of God's Ways, cont'd

2) Worshipping God for Looking upon Our Afflictions

"Our second illustration is found in Exodus 4, when God sent Moses to tell the children of Israel that He had visited them and would deliver them out of the bondage of Egypt. They would not have to fire bricks, the material used to build the tower of Babel. Verse 31 says, 'And when [the people] heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he

had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.' Do we have a group of people worshipping God for His ways? Many times it seems as if God is leading us in just the same way as He led Abraham's servant. When our way is well-prospered, we cannot but worship God. Here, however, the situation is different. They worshipped here because God visited them and looked upon their affliction.' ...God saw what happened to them. When the Israelites saw that God remembered, visited, and looked upon them, they bowed their heads and worshipped.

"Many times our brothers and sisters suffer trials. They cannot worship God because they think God has forgotten them. Many people have domestic difficulties, but the difficulties never last for four hundred thirty years. How can we say that God has forgotten us? Perhaps the children of Israel said, 'We have been slaves for so many years, God does not care,' just as we may say, 'I have been sick for so long, God would not heal me. I have been unemployed for years, but God will not make a way for me. My husband still does not believe; there are still problems in my family.' It seems that God has forgotten us, our difficulties, and our sufferings. But if we say these things, our lips will be sealed and we will not worship God. We will have no way to offer a word of worship to God. But a day will come when we see God. We will know Him and understand His ways, and we will see that God has not forgotten our situation. We will tell God that everything we went through was for our benefit; we will bow our head to say, 'God, I worship You.' We will be unable to refrain from worshipping God because of our gratitude. We will say, 'God, I worship You for all the grace and blessings You have given me.' "

3) Worshipping God for His Salvation

"In Exodus 12:27 God commanded the Israelites to teach their children about the meaning of the Passover: 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.' How did the Israelites receive this message? 'The people bowed the head and worshipped.' The people worshipped God. Please remember that in the Old Testament the sacrifice of the Passover was not a sin offering but a memorial sacrifice. This memorial sacrifice caused the people to worship God. God destroyed the firstborn in all the houses of the Egyptians, but He passed over all the houses of the children of Israel. As they recalled the separation that God had made between His people and the worldly people and the different places to which each had been brought, they could not help but worship Him.

"The Passover, like our Lord's table meeting, is a memorial sacrifice and feast to recall the Lord's work and our separation from the world, the recollection of which begets worship in our hearts. We wonder why God ever chose us! We are constrained to worship because of God's way in His selection. Many times God's grace only causes us to give thanks, but it cannot cause us to worship. When we see God's ways, however, we cannot refrain from worshipping. When the Israelites saw the ways of God, they seemingly could not help but say, 'God, there are so many people in Egypt, why would You pass over the houses of Israel and strike the houses of the Egyptians? Every firstborn of the Egyptians was slain; how could the firstborn of the Israelites be spared? God, how did You do this?' When we see what God has done and how He has chosen us, we will worship Him. The methods by which God does things are His ways. God not only gives grace to us, but the ways in which He gives grace and chooses us cause us to worship God.

"Have we thought about these matters? ...When we think of the way in which God chose us, we are not just thinking of the grace of God. We do not just give thanks; we also worship God for the way in which He works. Worshipping is acknowledging that God has given grace in such a way. This is not just a matter of God giving grace, but of the way in which grace is given. Since He has given grace in such a way, we should say, 'God, I