**The Ten Commandments**

**Lesson 4: Worship God**

**Repudiating False Gods and Worshiping the True God**

**Part 2**

1. **Testimony of The New Testament**

Last week we looked at the first commandment, *“You shall have no other gods before Me,”* from an Old Testament perspective. Now we will look at it from a New Testament perspective. When we turn to the New Testament, we find testimony about the one true God and what it means to know, love, obey, and serve Him. Jesus came to reveal the fullness of God. Colossians 2:9 boldly declares, *“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”* If we want to see and hear God, we need to look at and listen to Jesus. We will do that in today’s lesson.

The first verses of the Gospel of John paint a wonderful portrait of Jesus Christ. Read John 1:1-4, 14, 18 and record your insights. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus Christ is the Word of God, the full expression of who God is and what His will is. He is the Eternal One who has always existed as God with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Jesus is the Creator through whom all came into being. The fullness of life is in Him. He gives life and light to humanity. He was born in human form and revealed the glory and honor of the Father, which are marked by grace and truth. He is the *“only-begotten of the Father,”* fully revealing the nature and power of God. In seeing Jesus, we see God, and in listening to Him through His Word, we hear Him explaining the Father to us.

Hebrews 1:1-8 is another majestic portrait of Jesus Christ. Read those verses and list the description of Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus is the Son of God, the heir of all things. One day He will be fully revealed as the one who has the right of ownership over all things. He is the Creator of the world, the radiance of the father’s glory, the One who exactly reveals Him. He upholds all things or holds the universe together through the power of His word. He is not only the all-powerful Creator, but also the perfect Savior who purified us from sin through His death on the cross. And He sits at the right hand of God. His name is above all names, far above that of the greatest angel. He is God, and His throne will stand forever. He will reign in righteousness in every decision and every detail of His Kingdom.

In Hebrews 1:6, what are the angels commanded to do? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The Father commands the angels to worship His Son, the Lord Jesus. He is the firstborn, brought into the world as God-Man. In this verse, firstborn does not mean “born first.” Instead, it means “preeminent,” or the most important. In the Old Testament, David was the eighth son of Jesse, yet he is referred to as firstborn, *“the highest of the kings of earth”* (Psalm 89:20, 27). As the prophesied greater Son of David, Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of that verse. He is worthy to be worshiped because He is God. He deserves to be worshiped not only by the angels, but also by those who owe Him their salvation, forgiveness for their sins, and eternal life.

* The book of Revelation reveals the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb slain and raised, the King of kings and Lord of lords. This book is also full of angelic messengers unveiling God’s plans. What did the angel tell the apostle John in Revelation 22:6-9? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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After John records the words of the angel who revealed *“the things which must shortly take place,”* he repeats Jesus’ own words about His coming and His promised blessing to all who heeds the words of the prophesy. John was tempted to worship at the feet of the angel who conveyed the message, but the angel stopped him and commanded him to “worship God.” No angel is to receive our adoration; no other pretend god is to be worshiped. We must worship the one true God.

The Holy Spirit also led the apostle Paul to focus on who Jesus is as God. What additional insights do you glean from Philippians 2:5-11, especially verse 9-11? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus is Lord and Savior; He is God. One day every knee will bow, and every tongue will *“confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:11).

We can learn more about Jesus in Titus 2:10, 11-14, and 3:3-8. Also, we can see what God has done for “those who have believed” in Him.

Jesus is described as *“God our Savior,” “our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,”* and *“Jesus Christ our Savior.”* We are called to believe that He is God and to believe that He will forgive, cleanse, and change us, giving us the full blessing of salvation, fullness of life forever. In reality, *“We also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another,”* but then in His love, Jesus came, touching our lives and changing us forever.

Because He has changed us from the inside out, we now have the desire and power to do His will, the good deeds in which He leads us. We are meant to do so with zeal, yet sometimes we are slow to respond or have doubts or become discouraged. That is why God gave us His Word, including Scriptures such as Paul’s letter to Titus, to encourage and exhort us to live as His own treasured possessions, redeemed from doing wrong and purified for doing what is right.

1. **Unknown God or Well-known God?**

God wants to be known, so He reveals who He is. He loves us and desires that we know and love Him. He has shown Himself in many ways from the very start since creation. He has revealed Himself to many, and some of those revelations are passed on through His Word, the Bible. He revealed Himself most clearly in His Son, Jesus Christ, and continues that work through the ministry of His Holy Spirit. Today, we will look at His revelation in Scripture, the revelation of the only true God.

* How is God known? Look at Romans 1:19-20. What way of knowing Him has God given to all men and women?
* What should be our response to that knowledge within, according to Romans 1:21
* What additional insights are provided by Romans 2:11-16?

God has clearly revealed Himself in creation. Every man and woman on Earth can see evidence of *“His eternal power and divine nature”* in the natural world that surrounds us. His attributes such as perfect order, complexity of design beyond human understanding, awesome beauty, and abundant provision are clearly revealed in what is seen. But many people ignore this evidence and refuse to honor Him as God or to give thanks for His blessing. As a result, millions are trapped by their foolish hearts in the darkness of their futile speculations about God, worship, and morality.

1. In one way or another, they ignore and disobey His law—both what is written in Scripture and what is written from birth in their human conscience.

When God judges the hearts of all men and women, He will do so without partiality. Those who have known the Law will have that standard to face. That standard is rooted in the Ten Commandments as Romans 2:17-23 discusses. Those who have not officially known “the Law,” will be faced with “the law” written in their consciences—that self-standard of right and wrong that defends somebody or accuses somebody.

1. Everyone has a standard of some sort, some declaration of right and wrong, of personal rights, of what is “fair”—and everyone has broken that standard in some way. There is a judgment day when Jesus Christ will accurately evaluate and judge every secret thought, motive, and action. What else does the Scripture say about obeying the one true God?

On his mission trip through Greece, while in Athens, Paul had a wonderful opportunity to declare the truth about the true God—who He is, what He is like, what He has done, and how He can be known. We find an account of that meeting in Acts 17:16-34.

List the details that are given in verses 24-26.

1. What response does God want from those He created—from each man and woman—according to Acts 17:27, 30?
2. According to Acts 17:18, 31, how does Paul portray Jesus to the Athenians? Who does he declare Jesus to be?
3. What is noted in Acts 17:32-34 as the philosopher’s response to Paul’s sermon?

Paul took the idea of the *“unknown God”* of Athens and used it to build a bridge to the one true God. According to Paul, God needs nothing and give everyone *“life and breath and all things.”* He places all according to His timetable and His boundaries. Everyone is a creation of God with a built-in spiritual and religious nature. God calls for a living response from each one. As Paul told the Athenians nearly two thousand years ago, the “times of ignorance” (Acts 17:30) have passed. Now is the time to come to God as God.

1. This means coming in genuine repentance for past sins such as ignoring, disobeying, and dishonoring Him as the one true God.
2. It means turning to and trusting Jesus for salvation.
3. As in Athens, so today, some may sneer, others stand open to hear more, while still others are ready to believe in Jesus entrusting their lives into His hands.

John 1:18 declares that when Jesus came, He *“explained”* the Father. What does Jesus reveal about the Father as *“the only true God”* and what it means to know Him? Read John 17:3, 8 and 20 and record your insights. Also look at 1 John 5:20 for further clarification.

Eternal life is far more than merely living life forever and ever. It is living in eternal existence with Jesus, who provides the fullness of life. Jesus stated succinctly in His prayer that for us, the essence of eternal life is knowing the father as *“the only true God”* and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, whom He sent. One who knows God has eternal life. One who has eternal life knows God. A personal relationship with the only true God is what we were created for. Such a relationship involves hearing His Word, receiving it as the very Word of God, believing it to be true and trustworthy, and therefore placing faith in Christ. John gives further clarification in 1 John 5:20, stressing that Jesus has brought us “understanding” so that we can truly know God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Knowing Jesus means knowing “the true God” and thus having eternal life.

Those who know God through Jesus Christ will experience His grace and peace. By His power He has given us *“everything pertaining to life and godliness.*” We can experience the godliness He desires to see in us. What an incredible salvation and what an awesome knowledge! That knowledge is not to be stationary; it is meant to grow and increase. Paul prayed for the Colossian believers to be *“increasing in the knowledge of God.”* Knowing the one true God is an eternal joy and privilege!

1. **For Me to Follow God**

As we consider what it means to follow God as the one true God, we must consider the matter of worship. We worship who or what we consider to be of the greatest worth to us. What should our worship be like? Some think of worship as the Sunday-morning time segment in which they attend a worship service. Others think only of the portion of the Sunday gathering devoted to singing or hearing songs, and they consider that their worship. These may be part of worship, but worship is not about the songs that are sung or the gathering that are attended. Instead, it is about the hearts of those who sing the songs, who gather with others, and who follow God as the one true God. To help to focus on God as the only true God, we now look at five areas of applied worship that reveal how we are treating God as God.

Note, let’s look at the areas prayerfully and evaluate how we are treating God. With each there are some suggested Scriptures for meditation or further study. **Because God is God, the response of our lives and hearts should be worship.**

1. **Worship Includes, First of All, Surrender.**
	1. **Surrender** to Jesus as Lord each day (Romans 12:1-2). Treat God as God by following Him (Numbers 14:24; 1 Kings 18:21). That includes honoring and praising Him as your God and giving thanks to Him (Psalm 100; Romans 1:20-21).
	2. **Sin and self**—Surrender to His Word, His standard for life. As you face each day in surrender to Him, die to self and any personal agendas. Deal with any sin of which the Holy Spirit has convicted you. Take care of any unconfessed sin and make any restitution that is necessary (Luke 9:23-25; 1 John 1:9).
	3. **Spirit**—Yield to the fullness and control of the Holy Spirit expecting Him to empower you to do His will His way (Ephesians 5:18-21; Galatians 5:22-24).
2. **Worship Includes Supplication and Prayer.** Our prayers should acknowledgethat God is our Sovereign Lord, worthy of honor and thanks. Knowing that He sees all, hears all and knows all should lead us to confidence as we pray. He asks us to call on Him, showing our daily dependance on Him in all of life.
	1. **Adore, praise, and give thanks** (Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:20-21; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16).
	2. **Ask for needs in all areas of daily life** (Matthew 6:11-13).
	3. **Approach Him on behalf of others and their needs** (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

How? Use the Word of God as you pray. Pray the Scriptures back to the Lord, trusting Him to lead you in prayer as you meet with Him in the Word (for example: Nehemiah prayed the Word in Nehemiah 1:8-11, as did Daniel in Daniel 9:2-19).

1. **Worship Includes Speaking What God Wants.**  God pays attention to every word we say and holds us accountable for our words. He wants us to say things that please Him (Ecclesiastes 5:2; Proverbs 10:19 and 15:26 and 16:24; Matthew 12:36; Jude 15).
	1. **The Word of God—**Your conversation should be marked by agreement with the Word of God, and thus you must seek the Lord and His will in the Word. Are your thoughts and opinions in every area the thoughts and opinions of God? Read, memorize, meditate, think, and then speak the Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-18, 38, 72-74, 97-105, 127-130, 160-176; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:2-60). Also live what the Word says (Matthew 7:24-25; 28:18-20; 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2:1-2).
	2. **Witness—**Because God is God, worthy of worship and obedience, we should tell others about Jesus so they can become true worshippers of the true God—Father, Son, and Spirit. We should urge them to come to Jesus, to know, love, worship, and obey Him. Such witnessing starts at home (Luke 8:39, Acts 16:14-15, 25-34), then spreads to your neighborhood, to your workplace or school, and to others in your community (Acts 2:46-47; 5:14, 42; 6:7; 11:14). It also includes your witness beyond your community (Luke 24:46-49 and Acts 1:8; 2:5-11; 8:4; 9:31; 10:34-35; 11:18; 13:2-4; 19:26).
	3. **Words of grace**—God calls for us to speak His kind of words, “grace” words, according to the need in each moment of each day for each relationship (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8-9, 17).
2. **Worship Includes Service.** In Matthew 4:10, Jesus reiterated the first commandment (see Deuteronomy 10:20) about worshiping and serving the Lord only. Here are three areas of service that reflect worship of the Lord:
	1. **Ministry:** Every believer is gifted with spiritual gifts to serve in and through the Body of Christ (the Church). Pray to discover and use your spiritual gifts in the ministry that God gives you (Romans 12:3-8; Acts 20:24; Colossians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
	2. **Missions:**  Look for ways that God wants you to be involved in local and world missions (Matthew 28:17-20; Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 1:10-11).
	3. **Maintenance:** Worship includes trusting and following God in the daily tasks of life—your daily physical, material, and emotional needs, your job, your finances, and all that is involved in the daily life that God has given you (Ephesians 4:28, 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25, 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15).
3. **Worship Includes Following God’s Strategy for Winning the Battles In Life.**  If we follow and worship God as God, then we will trust Him in the battles we face while living on a fallen earth where a war is going on all around us—struggle with world, the flesh, and the devil. Trust God. Jesus has overcome all. As we surrender to Him, we claim His victory (Matthew 6:12-13; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17, 3:5-6; Colossians 2:9-15; 1 John 3:8, 4:4, 5:4-5).
	1. **War with the world:** Paul said, “… the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.” He urged us not to be “conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of [our minds]” (Galatians 6:14; Romans 12:2; John 2:15-17, 5:4-5).
	2. **War with the Flesh (the self):** Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20). The cross is the only place, that deals with our “flesh.” Our fleshly desires will not disappear. We must die to self or place spiritual interests above selfish interests; doing so makes it possible for Christ to live in us and through us (see Galatians 5:16-17, 22-24; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Philippians 1:21).
	3. **War with the devil:** Our submission to Christ is our victory over thedevil. James 4:7 says, “submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:5-9).

Are you worshiping the living God in the five areas just discussed? In the space below, note any needed changes that God has shown you, or write a prayer expressing your heart of worship in that area.

Surrender

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As we **surrender**, making **supplications** to the Lord, **speaking His Word**, and **speaking our witness**, we show that we are worshipers of the one true God. In the areas of **service** that He gives us and in the **strategy** that He has given us for the battles we face, we can worship Him and enjoy our victories in Him.

Pray about Commandment One

***Thou shall have no other gods before Me***

**Homework:** Pray about the five areas of worship listed above expressing your heart to God. Also pray about Commandment One.

**Next Week’s Lesson: No Idols.** *Loving and Obeying Only God*