

The Watchman #14  
**The Way of Worship**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

Ezekiel 44-46

**Discussion Questions**

1. Describe an instance when your attitude affected the people around you or the way you were doing something.
2. To encourage the hopeless people who were living in exile, God told Ezekiel to tell the people that there would be a future temple that would be built in the millennium where God's glory will return. Certain conditions must be met in the building of this temple, as described in chapters 42-43. In the next chapters God gives specific details of how this future temple should operate, and we see that some Old Testament practices of worship will be reinstated. Read Ezekiel 44-46 and identify some of these practices. In the New Testament we are told that these OT practices are insufficient to atone for the sins of mankind. If this is so, what purpose do these OT practices serve in the Millennial Kingdom? What does the Bible say about what will happen in the future that makes the reinstating of these practices necessary (Revelation 20:8)?
3. The worship of God is not a "freestyle" kind. God tells us how He wants us to worship Him and is very specific in indicating that there are protocols/rules as it relates to how to properly worship Him in the millennium temple. From these instructions we draw out three attitudes we need to proactively cultivate to align our worship with how God wants it done:
  - a. ***Worship is a self-examination of oneself for holiness and faithfulness (ch. 44).*** Who is the prince mentioned and what will be his responsibility (ch. 44:1-3)? Would everyone have full access to the millennium temple (ch. 44:4-5)? Why or why not? What are the conditions for those who can enter the temple (ch. 44:6-9)? God also enumerates some of the rules that govern those

that will serve in the millennium temple (ch. 44:10-31). Surprisingly, the Levites would no longer be allowed to serve as priests (v. 10-14). Why is this so? Who will have the special privilege of close access to the holy things of the temple instead (v. 15-16)? On what basis did God allow this group to do so? When God's people worship Him whether individually or corporately, He looks for holiness and faithfulness in the people who worship Him. Could you genuinely worship God if you are living in sin? How should you prepare yourself before coming to God in worship? Discuss how you can be faithful to God in spite of your circumstances, just like the sons of Zadok.

- b. ***Worship is giving to the Lord, fairly and wholeheartedly (ch. 45).*** The Israelites in their greed have used inaccurate measurements in dealing with everything, which God certainly opposed (ch. 45:9-12). God told them to do what is just and right and to use an accurate scale when they allocate things for Him, not taking things that belong to Him. You are not under compulsion to give, but when you do, make sure that you are giving God wholly His fair portion. What are the things that you give to God as an act of worship? In what ways are you being unfair and half-hearted in giving back to God what is His in the first place? Share a testimony that has showed that you cannot out-give God.
- c. ***Worship is intentional, orderly, and purposed (ch. 46).*** God has completely planned out the details of His worship service, down to how to enter and exit the temple, showing how orderly and intentional He is in what He does. His instruction is clear that worship should be intentional. It is not a response or an afterthought, but a proactive intentional act of the will. Discuss why you should not worship only when you feel like doing it? Why is order and intentional preparation in worship important, as opposed to a free-flowing program? Why is it not okay to come unprepared to worship God? How do you prepare yourself to worship God?

## Walk

*Worthy of worship, worthy of praise,  
worthy of honour and glory;  
worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,  
worthy of all the offerings we bring.  
You are worthy, Father, Creator.  
You are worthy, Saviour, Sustainer  
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful;  
worthy of worship and praise.*

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die in your place so that you can have eternal life in heaven (John 3:16). As a sinner saved by the grace of God, God is very much worthy of your worship. He has stated in His Word how He desires this done. Is your worship really true and acceptable worship? Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you proactively examining your life for holiness and faithfulness before you step out to worship Him?
- Are you proactively giving wholeheartedly and fairly as you put aside part of your time and resources to give to Him?
- Do you intentionally prepare your heart before you worship Him, or are you coming to church just for a show, meaning your heart is not really in it?

## Worship & Prayer

*Heavenly Father, thank You for enlightening me the real meaning of worship. Forgive me that many times when I come to worship You, I really don't think much about it. I don't search my heart if there is something that might hinder me from truly worshipping you, or if I am short-changing you by not putting aside what really belongs to you in terms of time and resources. No wonder there are times that I don't feel that I have really worshipped you. Help me to be intentional in preparing my heart by pursuing holiness, faithfulness, and whole-hearted giving to Your, for You are worthy of my utmost worship. May I have a heart of worship that is always acceptable to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.*