

**LESSON # 24**  
**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND EXPERIENCE**  
**PART 3: WORSHIP**

As we move towards the end of the Sunday School year, for the next four weeks we will discuss “the Christian Life and Experience.” As usual, we turn to the Bible to discover what the normal Christian experience looks like.

Our passage of scripture for the next four weeks will be from the Book of Acts 2:42 – 47:

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. [44] All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

This passage defines the practice of the early church directly after it was founded by Jesus Christ on the day of Pentecost (fifty days after His resurrection.)

The four key elements of the practice of the early Christians in the early church were:

- 1) “They devoted themselves to the apostles “teaching **(The Bible)**”
- 2) “They devoted themselves to **“fellowship”**
- 3) “They devoted themselves to **“prayer”**
- 4) “They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread **“worship”**

Each week for the next four we will look at one of these aspects of the Christian life and experience.

**THIS WEEK WE LOOK AT: WORSHIP**

Worship simply means “worthship.” That God is worthy of our lives and all we give to Him. Worship involves the giving of all of our life to God. We will look at putting Christ first and worshipping Him through giving, serving and building our life around Him.

**(I) WORSHIPPING HIM BY MAKING HIM LORD**

2 Corinthians 5:14,15 - the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the daily submission and surrender of our entire self to the authority and leadership of Jesus, recognizing His sovereign right to rule over us. (Colossians 1:18).

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

### **Colossians 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

## **(II) WHAT IS CHRIST'S PLAN FOR HIS DISCIPLES?**

(A) Luke 9:23 states the heart of worship is discipleship.

### **Luke 9:23**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

(B) Deny yourself - Putting the Lord and others first; refusing to live my life to please myself.

(C) Take up your cross daily - Submitting our will to the will of God. Luke 22:42.

### **Luke 22:42**

<sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

(D) Follow me - Following Jesus and no one or nothing else. Matthew 4:19; 1 Peter 2:21.

### **Matthew 4:19**

<sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

### **1 Peter 2:21**

<sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

(E) The whole principle of Lordship is the removal of self off of the throne of one's life, and the invitation to Jesus to sit on the throne and rule, trusting Him to do what is best for us.

(F) The battle of submission: two reasons why people do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of their life.

(G) We're afraid God may ask us to do something we don't want to do.

(H) We are not sure that God has our best interest at heart. Jeremiah 29:11.

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### **(III) HOW DO I KNOW IF JESUS IS LORD OF MY LIFE?**

(A) We show our love for Jesus by obeying His commands. **John 14:15,21, 23.**

#### **John 14:15**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

#### **John 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

#### **John 14:23**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

(B) We must read the Word of God, see what God's will is for our lives and then we must do it. **James 1:22-25.**

#### **James 1:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

<sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

<sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

<sup>25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

### **(IV) WHAT IS THE BLESSING OF PUTTING CHRIST FIRST IN MY LIFE?**

(A) **1 Peter 3:15-16**

#### **1 Peter 3:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

(B) **Romans 12:1-2**

**Romans 12:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

<sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(C) **Romans 6:22**

**Romans 6:22**

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

(D) The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the most crucial issue of any Christian's life. We are all aware of those around us who are reaping in their lives the by-products of their lack of obedience. Jesus has our best interests at heart. We must give Him our entire life and we must live only for Him daily. Only then will we experience the full life that He has promised us. As we continually confess Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives, we are assured of true faith living in our hearts. (Romans 10:9-10)

**(V) MAKING HIM LORD BY TITHING AND GIVING**

(A) **TITHING** - A tenth of all income given to God for furthering His work in this world.

1) **Genesis 14:18-20** - Abram gives a tenth of everything.

**Genesis 14:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,

<sup>19</sup> and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

2) **Leviticus 27:30** - A tenth of everything belongs to God.

**Leviticus 27:30**

<sup>30</sup> "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

3) **Proverbs 3:9** - Honor the Lord with the first fruits.

### **Proverbs 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

4) **Malachi 3:10** - Flood Gates open when we tithe

### **Malachi 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

(B) **GIVING**: Above and beyond the tenth.

1) **II Corinthians 9:6-7** - attitude: cheerful, not reluctantly.

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

<sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2) **Matthew 10:8** - freely you have received, freely give.

**Matthew 10:8** <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

3) **Luke 16:10-13** - trusted servants

### **Luke 16:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

<sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

<sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

<sup>13</sup> "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

## **(VI) MAKING HIM LORD BY SERVING**

(A) SERVICE

1) **Matthew 26:7-9** - wasting perfume?

### **Matthew 26:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

<sup>8</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked.

<sup>9</sup> "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

2) **I Peter 4:11** - serving in God's power.

**1 Peter 4:11** <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

3) **Luke 4:39** - at once she waited on Him.

### **Luke 4:39**

<sup>39</sup> So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

4) **John 13:4-5** - our example washes feet.

**John 13:4-5** <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

## **(VII) REVIEW OF WORSHIPPING HIM BY MAKING HIM LORD**

1) God wants a people who want Him.

2) Selfishness and greed are taught and learned. God wants to break into these areas of our lives and free us from ourselves by instituting giving and service.

3) God desires us to serve Him and others in "His power".

4) God is looking for wise servants.

5) Serving and giving should be a joy, continually.

6) Everyone in God's family has a job and responsibility.

