

# Should We Worship Jesus Christ?

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As most all of you who have been listening to Pacific for any length of time know that about four years ago, we started speaking about and emphasizing the role of God the Father more. We had realized our historical stance on the God of the Old Testament had been an error and had minimized the role of God the Father in the Bible and the plan of salvation as it is laid out. We started preaching a whole lot more about the role of God the Father and emphasizing the importance of recognizing His role. Ever since we started doing that, one of the common allegations from numerous sources is that we are minimizing the role of Jesus Christ. That we are reducing Jesus Christ to an unimportant role and “kicking Him to the curb”, so to speak. I personally would very much disagree with that characterization and I wanted to address some of that today.

A common symptom of carnal human nature is to often see the middle of the road as we jump from one ditch to the other ditch. That’s just symptomatic of being carnal human beings. Sometimes we see that we are a little out of balance and off in one ditch. We then realize this and instead of making a course correction and getting back to the middle of the road, we overreact. We go straight from that ditch, pass over the middle of the road and land in the other ditch. We certainly don’t want to do that in our emphasis on the role of God the Father. We certainly don’t want to minimize Jesus Christ and devalue His role.

So, what I would like to do today is focus on some of the important roles of Jesus Christ and in particular, the issue of, should we worship Jesus Christ? If you want a title for this sermon it’s:

## Should We Worship Jesus Christ?

As we go through the Bible today, we will see that our primary worship is of God the Father. He is the Most-High God, He is our Father, He is the Almighty, He is the One Who we make covenants with and Who has made covenants with mankind since creation. He is the Presence in the Temple and to whom sacrifices were made. I think we are clear on all of that because we have preached a lot about that over the last few years. We also need to realize that Jesus Christ is also worthy of our worship as well. We certainly don’t put Him above the Father but He is someone the Bible is going to show us today, through numerous examples—at least a dozen examples—that He was worshiped by human beings and angels.

A lot of these examples we’re going to see occurred during His physical lifetime. The first thing we are going to do is to get a context in which to view all of this. We are going to start off noticing there are examples in the Bible of:

- Righteous angels—angels who are obedient to God and follow Him.

We will see how they responded when humans tried to worship them.

- Righteous human beings, like the apostles,

Human Beings whom God used very strongly and powerfully in their roles.

How both of these, angels and men, responded when humans tried to worship them. We are going to see a stark contrast in how they responded.

- Jesus Christ and how He responded when He was on earth and others tried to worship Him.

We will begin in Revelation 22 and see an example of an angel who was involved in revealing to the Apostle John a lot of the visions that he saw and recorded in the book of Revelation. In John's encounter with the angel, he tries to worship him. Notice how the angel responded.

**Revelation 22:8** *Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. (NKJV)*

John is in awe of all he has experienced and his response is that he wants to bow down and worship this angel. Notice how the angel responds in verse 9.

*9) Then he said to me, See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” (NKJV)*

This angel was very clear about the fact that he follows God's instructions, he keeps the words of this book and is obedient to God. As a result, he said

“You don't worship me, you only worship God Beings, you never worship an angel”.

Now also notice an example of an apostle. In Acts 10 we see the example of Apostle Peter. He was one of the original apostles. He wrote some of the books of the New Testament and God used him in performing miracles in some very powerful ways. Here we see an example of where a human being tries to worship him. Notice how Peter responds.

**Acts 10:24** *And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.  
25) As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.  
26) But Peter lifted him up, saying, Stand up; I myself am also a man.” (NKJV)*

Notice, Peter said the same thing the angel said,

“Stand up, don’t be bowing down before me, don’t be trying to worship me, that’s not appropriate. I know you mean well but don’t do this, it’s not right.”

As we go through this sermon, we are going to look at numerous examples of Christ as a physical human being, still in the flesh, and human beings bowing down to worship Him. Notice as we go through this, that not once in any of these accounts does Christ ever say “This is inappropriate, stand up, don’t worship Me”. We will see, as He has conversations with these people and interacts with them, that He has plenty of opportunity to correct them—but He never does.

Before we go down that road, turn to Matthew 4 and we’ll see the example of Satan. We know Satan is a created angel who rebelled against God, so he has no problem being worshipped. In fact, he would desire that. We have to keep in mind that he is a rebellious sinner and that’s why he is doing this. This is part of his temptation of Christ.

**Matthew 4:8** *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.*

*9) And he said to Him, All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” (NKJV)*

Satan is a rebellious angel; he’s not trying to honor God and follow His instructions. He is okay with being worshipped and wants Christ to worship Him. Notice verse 10.

*10) Then Jesus said to him, Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.” (NKJV)*

Christ points out to him that this is not appropriate and that He was not going to do this. Notice Christ’s response. It is that you should worship the Father and Him only you shall serve. To understand the context here, he is not saying it’s not inappropriate to worship other God beings, that’s not the context here. Here a created angel is asking Christ to worship him. The contrast is between Satan and God the Father. He is saying that this is inappropriate, and He won’t do this.

Christ is quoting directly from Deuteronomy 6. In Deuteronomy 6 we will find that same text that Christ was quoting from. We are first going to notice the specific verse which is verse 13. Then we are going to look at the overall context. I’m reading out of the New King James version and you’ll understand why I’m making a point of that in just a moment.

**Deuteronomy 6:13** *You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. (NKJV)*

Notice we don’t see the words, “Him only shall you serve.” The reason is, the New King James like most modern translations of the Bible in English today, is translated from the Masoretic text. You are dealing with a document that was written thousands of years

ago. For much of that time what was preserved were in hand written copies. We don't have the original, we have copies of copies of copies that have come down over time. As that happens, you can have little errors here and there. That's why it's important to compare manuscripts and different translations because there is always some human error. The way you find that is to compare with other translations because you can sometimes figure out where someone made an error when they were recording it. If we read this particular verse in the Septuagint, we see that those exact words are there. Let me show you how the beginning of this verse reads in the Septuagint.

*Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.*

This has the wording exactly as quoted by Christ. The significant difference is the Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. It's not really an issue of Greek versus Hebrew. What I want you to see is that the Septuagint is a much older translation. I think some of the earliest transcripts of the Masoretic text go back to about 700 A.D. whereas the Septuagint was translated from Hebrew into Greek a couple hundred years before Christ. So, it goes back to much older Hebrew manuscripts. I'm not in any way saying that the Septuagint is a perfect translation and that there are no errors there either. With manuscripts that have been copied by hand, there can always be those errors.

What is interesting is that when you study the New Testament you notice there are a number of times where the New Testament quotes the Old Testament. It even indicates this with statements like, "thus it is written" and then quotes a verse. There are a number of cases where you will turn back to that Old Testament verse and it's not worded exactly the same way as it was quoted. The same idea is there but it's not exactly the same. In many of those cases, if you look back at how the Septuagint translates that verse, you find it does often exactly match. I'm not suggesting that the Septuagint doesn't have any flaws, that's not my point. It's just an issue of why it's important at times to compare different manuscripts from different sources because when you have copies of copies of copies come down over time, little errors can take place.

Now notice the context here. Back up to verse 10 of Deuteronomy 6 because I want you to see the context matches very much what we read in Matthew. It's God the Father versus pagan gods, not whether or not we worship Christ.

**Deuteronomy 6:10** *So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,  
11) houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—  
12) then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

13) *You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. (NKJV)*

Notice verse 14 in particular, because here is the contrast.

14) *You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you*

15) *(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. (NKJV)*

Notice when it refers to, "Him only shall you serve", keep in mind the context; the context is worshipping the true God—God the Father, Yehovah—versus the pagan gods like Ba'al or other foreign, pagan gods. That is the contrast he is getting at. He's not saying Christ is not worthy of worship.

Now we are going to look at a number of examples. There are at least a dozen examples or more in the Bible of human beings and angels prostrating before Christ and worshipping Him. In every single case, not once does Christ say to stand up, that this was inappropriate, or that they shouldn't be worshipping Him, and that this is wrong—He never says that. This is true even when He is physical flesh as a human being.

To start turn to Joshua 5 and we will see an account here that includes Joshua and an individual who identifies himself as the Commander of Yehovah's army. As you are probably aware, there are times when we see Christ is portrayed in the Old Testament, but sometimes we have to pay attention to the context to figure out that it's Him. In the New Testament we often see the word Jesus or Christ or the Lamb. We see terms we know absolutely for a fact that it's Christ. In the Old Testament it's context and the details of how we lay it down. Sometimes He is referred to as the angel of Yehovah, His messenger, sometimes His companion. Then there are various terms, just like with messenger of Yehovah, that can refer to a physical human being or that can refer to a created angel, but we figure it out by context. This is one of those examples that by context we can obviously figure out that a God being is being referred to here.

**Joshua 5:13** *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, Are You for us or for our adversaries?"*

14) *So, He said, No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, What does my Lord say to His servant?"*

15) *Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. (NKJV)*

You never see a created angel saying, take your shoes off, the ground you are standing on is holy. A righteous angel would not have allowed Joshua to bow before him and

worship him. But this individual does allow worship and He doesn't identify Himself as a Yehovah, He says "I am the Commander of Yehovah's army." This obviously is Jesus Christ appearing before him. Joshua worships Him and he is never corrected.

Not only does this take place when Christ is in Spirit form, as a Spirit Being, this also happens numerous times during His physical lifetime while He is a flesh and blood human. To see some of these examples, turn to Matthew 2:1. This is right after Christ's birth and in this story, He couldn't possibly have corrected anybody because He is an infant; a little child in diapers, crying.

**Matthew 2:1** *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2) saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.*" (NKJV)

It's specifically stating that they are coming to worship Him because they realize who He is. They realize this is not just some regular, carnal human being born, this is the God Being who has been born in physical flesh. Because they recognize who He is, is why they are coming to worship Him. We'll just keep reading the context.

*3) When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

*4) And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.*

*5) So, they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:*

*6) But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.*

*7) Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.*

*8) And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.*" (NKJV)

Notice Herod is talking about worshipping Him, but as we'll see it is obvious Herod really just wants to know where Christ is so he can try to kill Him. He has an evil agenda.

*9) When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.*

*10) When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.*

*11) And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.* (NKJV)

Notice again, Christ is an infant—a small child—but they are bowing down and worshipping Him.

11) continued ... And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12) Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. (NKJV)

They were divinely warned that Herod wasn't sincere in his desire to worship Jesus Christ, he just wanted to know where He was so he could kill him. Notice Christ is a physical human being, He's in the flesh, He's an infant and these guys were coming to worship Him. We're going to notice about a half dozen examples here that happened during Christ's physical lifetime. He was a flesh and blood human, when human beings are bowing down and worshipping Him and He never corrects them. We are also going to see about five other examples that happened when He was an adult where He could certainly have corrected them and told them it was wrong, if that was the case. He has conversations and interacts with these people but he never corrects them and says don't worship Me, this isn't appropriate.

Notice the first example in Matthew 8:1. This is an account where a man with leprosy comes to Christ to be healed.

**Matthew 8:1** *When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.*

2) *And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, you can make me clean."*

3) *Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*

4) *And Jesus said to him, See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." (NKJV)*

Christ gives him additional instructions but He never says, "By the way, don't bow down to Me, that's not appropriate." He never says that because given who He is, even though He is in the form of flesh He's not a regular physical human being; He is a preexisting eternal God Being who was then born in the flesh as a human. They are worshipping Him because they are recognizing who He is.

Matthew 9 is another example.

**Matthew 9:18** *While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."*

19) *So, Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.*

20) *And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.*

21) *For she said to herself, If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."*

22) *But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her, He said, Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.*

23) *When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,*

24) *He said to them, Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.*

25) *But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.*

26) *And the report of this went out into all that land. (NKJV)*

The ruler who had fallen down before Him and worshipped Him, Christ goes to this man's house and resurrects his child but He never tells the him, you shouldn't be worshipping Me, you shouldn't be bowing to Me, that's not appropriate, because it was appropriate because He is an eternal God Being.

Matthew 14 is an example involving the apostles.

**Matthew 14:25** *Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.*

26) *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.*

27) *But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

28) *And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

29) *So, He said, Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

30) *But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, Lord, save me!"*

31) *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

32) *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

33) *Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, [notice what they state because this explains why they are worshipping Him, they recognize Who He is] saying, Truly You are the Son of God." (NKJV)*

Even though He is a fleshly human being at this point, we know He lived a perfect life and never sinned. But in addition to that they realize, He is a God Being, He is the Son of God who has been born as a physical human. He comes with the authority of who He is and that's why they are willing to worship Him. It would never be appropriate to bow down and worship a carnal human being, that's never appropriate. That's not even appropriate with righteous angels. But Christ being the Son of God, being a God Being, even though He is in the flesh, recognizing who He is, it was appropriate for them to bow down and worship Him.



Matthew 15, is another example of this.

**Matthew 15:21** *Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.*

22) *And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!* (NKJV)

She is recognizing who He is.

22) *continued ... My daughter is severely demon-possessed.*"

23) *But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, Send her away, for she cries out after us.*"

24) *But He answered and said, I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" [Notice her response]

25) *Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, help me!*"

26) *But He answered and said, It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.*"

27) *And she said, Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*" [That's incredible humility.]

28) *Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.*" *And her daughter was healed from that very hour.* (NKJV)

John 9 is an example that will involve a blind man who had come to Christ for healing and Christ healed him on the Sabbath. That got the Pharisees all worked up and they were upset with Him. In fact, the man who was healed—we're not going to read this part of the story, which is why I am summarizing—had been telling the story. Everybody knew he was blind up to this point and they were asking "why do you see now?" He said this man, Jesus Christ, healed me. The Pharisees didn't want that story going out and they tried to threaten him and bully him into changing the story.

"You can tell any story just don't tell the story that Christ is the one who did this; we don't want that getting out."

The man refused to change his story and they disfellowshipped him, to use a modern-day terminology is how we would describe it, that's basically what they did to him. Pick up in verse 35 of John 9.

**John 9:35** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, Do you believe in the Son of God?"*

36) *He answered and said, Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"*

37) *And Jesus said to him, You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.*" (NKJV)

Christ identifies Himself He's not just a prophet or an apostle, He's not just a physical human being, He's the Son of God born into physical flesh.

38) *Then he said, Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. (NKJV)*

Because he realized who He was talking to.

39) *And Jesus said, For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”*

40) *Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, Are we blind also?”*

41) *Jesus said to them, If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, We see. Therefore, your sin remains. (NKJV)*

These were the Pharisees who were trying everything they could to suppress word getting out that Christ is truly the Son of God and He performs all these miracles. That is why they were threatening this man. Tell any story except the truth because the truth is unpopular and that's going to threaten our power. That's what they were all upset about.

We have covered a number of examples that happened during Christ's physical life time, during His ministry. Now notice a couple of examples that occur after His resurrection and before He ascended to the Father. There are a couple of examples here where He is back to being a Spirit Being and human beings bow down and worship Him. Matthew 28:9.

**Matthew 28:9** *And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, Rejoice!” So, they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.*

10) *Then Jesus said to them, Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.” (NKJV)*

Just take note of the fact that as we read through all of these examples, Christ has conversations numerous times with the people who have bowed down to worship Him. Not once does He ever respond like Peter or the angel which we read about in Revelation in saying, “no don't do this”; He never does that.

Continuing verse 16.

16) *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.*

17) *When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. (NKJV)*

We have another example of human beings bowing down before Christ and worshipping Him. We have seen a number of examples now—even starting back in the book of Joshua, before Christ came to the earth as a physical human being. We saw examples when He was an infant and people were worshipping Him and throughout His ministry. Even after His resurrection, there are numerous cases of physical human beings bowing down, prostrating before Him and worshipping Him. But also notice that it is not only human beings who worship Him, Angels also worship Him as well.

[*This is just a side note*: one of the principles of biblical interpretation we see in Isaiah is the concept of line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little. Hebrews 1 is a very good example of that principle. If you read through this chapter, you will see a lot of quotes taken from various parts of the Bible, all strung together to basically teach lessons about Jesus Christ and His role. It literally is, here a little, there a little, different verses in various parts of the Bible. They are all brought together and it's obvious from how the author of Hebrews is writing this, that he has used them all to teach principles about Jesus Christ and His role.]

Notice in Hebrews 1:5.

**Hebrews 1:5** *For to which of the angels did He ever say: You are My Son; Today I have begotten You"? And again: I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? (NKJV)*

Obviously, we are talking about Jesus Christ.

*6) But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: Let all the angels of God worship Him." (NKJV)*

The Father intends all the angels of God will worship Jesus Christ. They will all bow down before Him, recognizing who He is and that He is an eternal God Being, worthy of their worship.

As I've mentioned before that if you compare manuscripts—particularly the Masoretic text with the Septuagint—there are various times when we will be reading the New Testament and the New Testament will be quoting a verse from the Old Testament. But if you turn over—if you're using the New King James or the Old King James or a variety of modern translations that come from the Masoretic text—you'll look and the quote it's cited to is not worded exactly the same as what you're reading in the New Testament. I mentioned that in a number of these cases, if you look at how it's worded in the Septuagint, you'll find an exact match.

If you have a New King James Bible like I do, with Hebrews 1:6, you'll see there is a note there that refers that quote that is contained here—let all the angels of God worship Him. It attributes that quote to Deuteronomy 32:43 and it specifically says the Septuagint. Let's notice why; turn to Deuteronomy 32:43 and first I'm going to read this from the New King James.

*Deuteronomy 32:43 Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people." (NKJV)*

Notice there is nothing stated here in what we just read that talks about angels worshipping anybody. We didn't read anything like that, it's not there. Let me read to you again just the first part of this verse in the New King James and then I'm going to

read you the first part of the verse of how it reads in the Septuagint because the beginning of the sentence in the New King James is:

*Rejoice Oh Gentiles, with His people.*

Let me read the beginning of the verse from the Septuagint.

*Rejoice you angels with Him, let all the angels of God worship Him, rejoice you Gentiles with His people.*

Notice what has happened. There is a chunk of the beginning of the sentence that's missing in the Masoretic text but it shows up in the Septuagint. If we look at Hebrews, it's obviously quoting somewhere in the Old Testament but without this, we don't have a place for it to be quoted from. This obviously validates that this was in the original. Otherwise, where would the author of Hebrews be quoting it from? There is not another verse to go to. Well, there it is, because in the Masoretic text there isn't one. There is not a spot it could be quoted from.

To get back on point, turn to Mark 5. I was discussing the issue of angels worshipping Christ. What we're going to see in Mark 5 is a man who has a demon. We're going to see is the demon bowing before Christ to worship Him. Obviously, he's not being sincere here in his dedication to Christ, he's just trying to avoid consequences. We'll see in this example that this demon thinks that the appropriate thing to do is bow before Christ. Mark 5:1.

**Mark 5:1** *Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes*

*2) And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,*

*3) who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,*

*4) because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.*

*5) And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.*

*6) When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. (NKJV)*

Notice Christ is about to have a conversation with the demon here.

*7) And he cried out with a loud voice and said, What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most-High God? [Acknowledging who Christ really is] I implore You by God that You do not torment me." (NKJV)*

The demon knows his fate and also knows Who Christ is and he's trying to avoid negative consequences.

- 8) *For He said to him, Come out of the man, unclean spirit!*  
9) *Then He asked him, What is your name?" And he answered, saying, My name is Legion; for we are many.*  
10) *Also, he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. (NKJV)*

The story goes on that Christ casts out the demons, they enter a herd of pigs which then run off the cliff and kill themselves because they didn't want the demons either. What I want you to notice is that even though this is a rebellious angel, what does he do? When he's afraid of negative consequences, he bows before Christ to worship Him. We can understand Christ's role and it is appropriate for Him to be worshipped.

In fact, the New Testament tells us that everyone will worship Christ in the future. Philippians 2:5.

- Philippians 2:5** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*  
6) *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,*  
7) *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*  
8) *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (NKJV)*

Notice the next several verses.

- 9) *Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*  
10) *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*  
11) *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NKJV)*

If you notice as we read through this, the word "worship" does not appear here. We don't actually see that, it's not an English word in Greek directly mentioned like that. The key is understanding what the Bible refers to when it talks about the "bowing of the knee." "Bowing of the knee" is an act of worship. After Christ had been arrested and then tortured, some of His torturers began to mock Him and they obviously were not sincere in their actions because they were trying to harass and beat Him and mock Him. Notice what's stated.

- Mark 15:16** *Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison.*  
17) *And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head,*  
18) *and began to salute Him, Hail, King of the Jews!"*

19) *Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him.*

20) *And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. (NKJV)*

They were obviously not sincere in their actions. They had been torturing Him and trying to be as mean as possible. They committed a mocking act of worshipping Him and how did they do that? By “bowing the knee”. Notice there are several examples that demonstrate what this phrase means; it’s an act of worship to “bow the knee”.

To see a couple of examples, turn to Romans 11:2.

**Romans 11:2** *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,*

3) *LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?*

4) *But what does the divine response say to him? I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” (NKJV)*

It’s obvious when it refers to those who did not bow their knee to Baal, this is a pagan god that people worshipped. Bowing the knee to Baal is to accept Baal as a god and those who bowed are worshipping him. It tells you what this expression of “bowing the knee” is referring to.

Now let’s notice an example where it refers to God the Father in Romans 14:11.

**Romans 14:11** *For it is written As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (NKJV)*

He’s saying they shall all “bow the knee before Me” They will show Him the honor and respect He deserves and they will worship Him. They will bow before God the Father; that’s what this is referring to. It helps us understand what this “bowing the knee” refers to.

Now that we understand that, look at Philippians 2 where we just were and read through the last several verses with this understanding in mind.

**Philippians 2:9** *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*

10) *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, [in other words, they will bow and worship Christ and who will do that?] of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*

11) *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NKJV)*

This is not exalting Christ above God the Father. We should never do that. The Father is the Most-High, He is the Almighty. Christ was very clear; My Father is greater than I am. He pointed everyone to the Father. It's honoring the Father when we worship Jesus Christ because it's the Father who placed Him in this role. It's the Father who resurrected Him from the dead and exalted Him to sit at His right hand and has given Him this position. It was the Father's will to put Him in this role and acknowledging Christ in that role is honoring the Father's decisions and glorifying Him as well.

We've looked at a number of examples, particularly in the New Testament where the English word "worship" shows up. Now I would like to share with you, how this Greek word is defined and then we're going to look at a couple of examples of how this exact same word is used to describe how we should interact with God the Father. We see it's the same concept of worship. We never put Christ above the Father, Christ Himself was very clear about that. To understand the Greek word used here, in every one of the scriptures in the New Testament that we've read today, that have the English word *worship*, they all come from the same Greek word *proskuneo* and its Strong's #4352 and the definition I'm going to read is from The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates. Zodhiates has a more extensive definition of this word and I'm going to read just part of his definition.

*To worship, do obeisance, show respect, fall or prostrate before, spoken of those who pay reverence and homage to deity. Render divine honors, worship, adore, with the basic idea of prostration.*

You can see this isn't just the concept of showing respect for someone, this is talking about worshipping them. The way we use the English word worship that concept fully applies. So now just to cement that point let's look at a couple of examples that specifically refer to God the Father so we can understand how this term is used. John 4:20, is part of Christ's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. We are going to break into the middle of the context.

**John 4:20** *Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."*

21) *Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

22) *You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*

23) *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

24) *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*  
(NKJV)

My point here is, that the same Greek word that referred to at all the times we talked about Christ being worshipped by human beings, is the same Greek word Christ is using when He says, we all need to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Obviously, it's the same concept of worshipping a God Being because they are worthy of that. Let

me be very clear, I am not saying that at any time we ever put Christ above the Father. We have been very clear about that over the last few years of properly acknowledging the Father as the Most-High and as greater than Christ Himself. But at the same time, we need to acknowledge Christ's role and that He is worthy of our worship as well. The Bible tells us that everyone will worship Him. That's something we need to understand. In Revelation 11 we see another example where this word is used, specifically in reference to God the Father.

**Revelation 11:15** *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ ... (NKJV)*

So obviously our Lord is the Father because Christ is contrasted.

*15) continued ... and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

*16) And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God,*

*17) saying: We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. (NKJV)*

We know Who the Lord God Almighty is and Who the One who was and is and is to come is—that's the Father. It's saying these angels are worshipping the Father and it's the same Greek word that we've seen used in all the examples that we read about worshipping Christ. So obviously, it's the same basic concept. We should always put the Father first; He is always the primary individual that we are worshipping. But Christ is worthy of our worship as well.

To put all of this in its proper context, we also need to understand and keep in mind the relationship between Christ and God the Father. This makes it very clear that the Father is the primary focus of our worship; He is the all-powerful, Most-High, He is the Almighty. He is the top of the pyramid you might say and that's because Christ and God the Father have a God-Servant relationship. Whether they are the same in character and purpose as far as their intent and mind, you always see the relationship that it's a God-Servant relationship where Christ refers to the Father as His God. You will never see the Father refer to Christ as His God. He refers to Christ as His Servant as His Companion, as His Son, His Messenger—there are numerous titles He gives Him—but it's never My God. Christ on numerous occasions refers to the Father as His God. So this shows you what we might call today, the pecking order. It's who is the primary authority and who is the secondary and the Father is always primary.

In John 20:17; the context is the wave sheaf Sunday after Christ has been resurrected but hasn't yet gone up to fulfill the wave sheaf before the Father.



**John 20:17** *Jesus said to her, Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God. (NKJV)*

He's saying He is about to go and fulfill the wave sheaf offering and present Himself before the Father but He refers to the Father as "My God". In Revelation 3 and we will see in the letter to Philadelphia He makes this statement again, making it very clear that Christ views the Father as His God.

**Revelation 3:12** *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*

*13) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (NKJV)*

He repeatedly refers to the Father as "My God". There is a God-Servant relationship between the two. He worships the Father and we worship the Father as well but we have to keep in mind that Christ is also a God Being; He's the One who gave His life for us, we owe Him respect and worship as well. To solidify this point, turn to John 17:1.

**John 17:1** *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,*

*2) as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*

*3) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (NKJV)*

In referring to the Father as the only true God, He's not denying that He is a God Being. Even in the flesh we saw numerous times where human beings were bowing before Him and worshipping Him which would only be appropriate for a God Being. Carnal human beings—a righteous human being—would never allow that. What He's acknowledging is the Father's supremacy. The Father is the Most-High, He is the Almighty, He is the primary focus of our worship. We never put Christ before the Father; we never put anyone before the Father because He is the Most-High God.

This is why, in the Ten Commandments, He made rule number one. Turn to Exodus 20:1.

**Exodus 20:1** *And God spoke all these words, saying:*

*2) I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

*3) You shall have no other gods before Me. (NKJV)*

If you look at this in Hebrew, it's "You shall have no other Elohim before Me." Elohim is a broad term. It can refer to human beings, God Beings, angels. It's a term in which context is important because it can be used in a lot of ways. Christ is also an Elohim; He is one as well. But we should never put Christ before the Father. It's only God Beings that we should truly worship. Even righteous humans like Peter, who was an apostle performing miracles, said "Don't worship me". Even a righteous angel who was involved in revealing the things in Revelation to John, when John tries to bow down and worship him, he said, "No don't do this John, this isn't right, this is idolatry, you shouldn't worship me."

We have seen numerous examples throughout Christ's lifetime as a human being when He is repeatedly having humans bow down—even angels—to worship Him and not once does He ever correct anyone. He does not say, "This isn't appropriate, don't do this." This is because Christ is worthy of our worship as well. We should never place Him before the Father, the Father is always our primary focus, He is the Most-High God, He is the Almighty and we should always keep that relationship right in our minds. The relationship between Christ and the Father is a God-Servant relationship, so the Father is always our primary focus. But again, God Beings can be worshipped.

Just to solidify this point look at Revelation 3. Notice an interesting comment in the letter to Philadelphia.

**Revelation 3:9** *Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. (NKJV)*

He is obviously referring forward into the future when the first fruits have been changed into Spirit Beings. They have been born into the Kingdom of God and then they are God Beings because it would never be appropriate for carnal, physical human beings to have someone bowing and worshipping before them. The point is, God Beings are who are worthy of worship. There is always going to be the authority and pecking order of God the Father being the Supreme Being as He is the Most-High, He is the Almighty, that will never change, no one will ever be His equal. Christ will always be number two in authority. A Servant to the Father but greater than all the rest of us. Even those who make it into the Kingdom of God and become God Beings, as we can see from this example, are worthy of worship because of being God Beings.

My point of this sermon is, that in the last several years we have placed a lot of emphasis on clarifying the role of God the Father. We realized we had minimized His role and we had everything He did in the Old Testament attributed to Christ and we were not showing the proper honor to Him. One thing we don't want to fall into is seeing the middle of the road as we jump from one ditch to the other and not give Christ the proper respect that His role deserves. We want to stay in the middle of the road and properly acknowledge both of Their roles.

As we go forward from this Sabbath, we need to realize that God the Father is the

primary focus of our worship. He was the God in the Temple that was sacrificed to, He is the God Who makes the covenants with mankind and that will always be true. He will always be the Most-High, He will always be the primary focus of our worship. But Jesus Christ is also an eternal God Being. He is the One who sacrificed His life to enable all of us the opportunity to have salvation in the first place. He deserves our respect and our worship because of His role and because of Who He is.