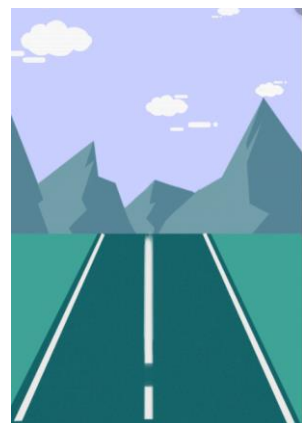
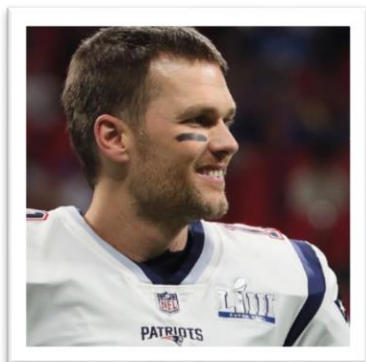
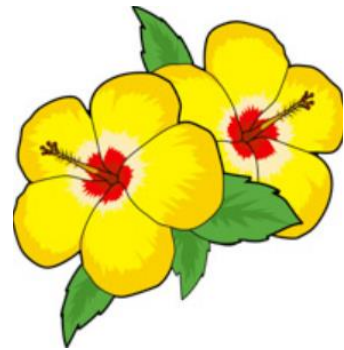
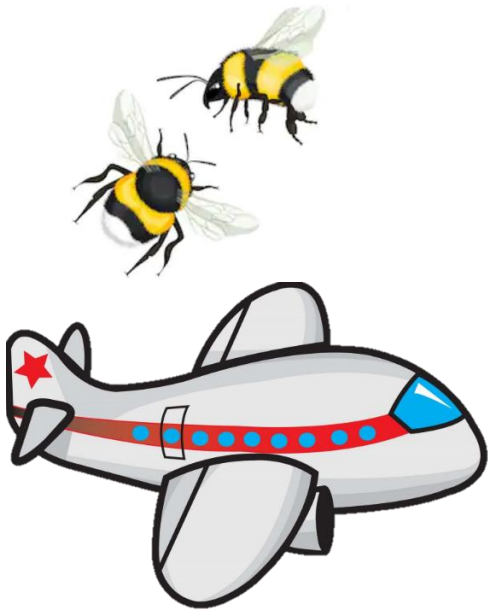


True Worship

Match each person or thing with its appropriate focus:



God-focused worship



To summarize last week's lesson, let's take a short quiz:

- T or F** True worship in the Christian tradition is intentional, relevant and obedient.
- T or F** The capacity for humans to worship may be considered an evidence that we were made in God's image.
- T or F** Idolatry can be defined as both worshipping false gods and falsely worshipping the true God.
- T or F** While there may be other ways, the only Biblically certified and substantiated expression of worship is when you are worshipping with other believers.
- T or F** An idol can be anything that confers on us personal worth, meaning in life, our sense of value, our status, our comfort, or our personal power.
- T or F** Believers are to draw near to God through Christ but only when we are free of any sense of distance between ourselves and God.
- T or F** A tuning fork is one metaphor for the Spirit sent by God to quicken us to worship.

As worshipping beings, we can take steps to identify the right God to worship. We can also “go to school” on our words, attitudes, and actions that are appropriate so that we rightly worshipping that true God.

But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)

The book of Hebrews draws attention to the uniqueness of our worship as the New Testament people of God

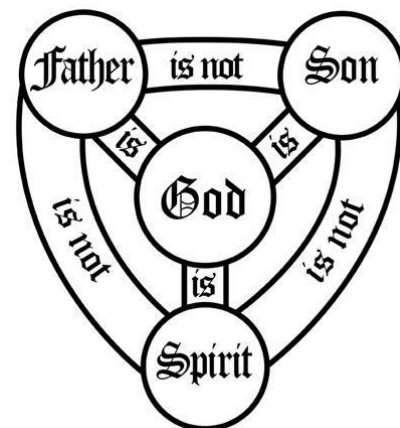


Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28-29)

How do you KNOW that your “Sunday-morning-pray-and-sing-and-sit-in-a-sermon- god” is the True God?

Indeed, our God is an awesome God. He is identifiable and unique in His character, His names, His actions and His attributes:

1. *God's Essential Character.* Once per quarter we say the Nicene Creed. In it we remember that *our God is a Trinity*. The one God exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God in his unity is a proper object of worship, but so too are each of the persons of the Godhead. We worship God, and we also worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In worshiping any of the divine persons we worship the whole Godhead, for God is one.



Christian worship reflects the Bible's emphasis on the work of each person of the Trinity. The Father is particularly the object of our worship. We usually pray, as Jesus taught us, "Our Father." The Son is the mediator of our worship. Jesus opened the way to the Father for us by his saving work, and we come to the Father in his name. The Spirit empowers and blesses our worship. He warms our hearts and draws us, not to himself, but to Jesus and God's Word. The very nature of God leads us to worship the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit.

We may focus on any one of the divine persons at particular points because the Bible itself shows us that each person of the Trinity is associated with particular divine acts. In the instance of salvation, the Father is particularly linked to the planning of salvation in order to reconcile sinners to himself. The Son is linked to accomplishing salvation as the God-man living, dying, and rising in the place of sinners. The Spirit is linked to applying salvation, drawing sinners to Christ, and giving them faith and new life. Fill in the blanks in the chart below with how each of the divine persons is active in and associated with particular divine acts:

	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
The creation and sustaining of the Church	The Father of all creation (Acts 17:29), of the nation of Israel (Ex 4:22), and of all believers in Christ (Gal 3:26).	<i>(Hint: Bridegroom, Shepherd, High Priest, etc.)</i>	The regenerator, teacher, counselor, guide, comforter and gift-giver to all believers
The Word of God made known in human words	<i>(Hint: Covenants, Theophany, Angel messengers, etc.)</i>	The Logos of God revealing God in a specific time and place. (John 1:1-5, 14)	Applying God's Word to every language, nation, tongue and tribe
The effect of prayer upon people and circumstances	The Father has an eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His own will, for his own glory, that He ordains to happen. (Eph. 1:11)	Jesus exists today to intercede with God on our behalf, to bring about God's perfect will.	<i>(Hint: in our weakness, indwelling us, guiding prayer in the spirit, etc.)</i>

Knowing God is a trinity, how could that fact inform your worship choices?

2. *The name(s) of God.* It matters to know someone's correct name. Getting the right name is elemental to any relationship and foundational to worship. Getting God's name was a challenge. It took Moses to finally ask God's name, all the way in Exodus 3:

"If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:13-14)

Later in Exodus 34, Moses desires to know God more intimately. He asks to see God's glory. Instead, God elaborates on his name AND tells Moses the many qualities associated with his name. These "amplifiers" tell us even more about who God is:

Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations." Moses immediately threw himself to the ground and worshiped. (Ex 34:5-8)

	The Names of God	
Elohim	God, Mighty Creator	Genesis 1:1
El Roi	The God Who Sees Me	Genesis 16:13-14
El Shadday	God Almighty	Genesis 17:1-2
El Olam	The Everlasting God	Genesis 21:32-33
Yahweh Yireh	The Lord Will Provide	Genesis 22:13-14
Yahweh	Lord	Exodus 3:14-15
Adonay	Lord, Master	Psalms 16:2
Yahweh Rophe	The Lord Who Heals	Exodus 15:26
Yahweh Nissi	The Lord My Banner	Exodus 17:15-16
Esh Oklah, El Kanna	Consuming Fire, Jealous God	Deuteronomy 4:23-24
Qedosh Yisrael	Holy One of Israel	Leviticus 19:1-2
Yahweh Shalom	The Lord is Peace	Judges 6:24
Yahweh Tsebaoth	The Lord of Hosts	1 Samuel 17:45-46
Yahweh Tsur	The Lord My Rock	Psalms 144:1
Yahweh Roi	The Lord is My Shepherd	Psalms 23:1-3
Hashem	The Name	1 Kings 8:28-29
Melek	King	Psalms 72:1-3
Ish	Husband	Hosea 2:16, 19-20
El Chay	Living God	2 Kings 19:15-16
Maon, Machseh, Magen, Metsuda, Migdal-Oz	Dwelling Place, Refuge, Shield, Fortress, Strong Tower	Psalms 91:1-2
Shophet	Judge	Psalms 94:15
Miqweh Yisrael	Hope of Israel	Jeremiah 17:7-8, 13
Yahweh Tsidqenu	The Lord Our Righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
El Elyon	God Most High	Daniel 4:34
Yahweh Shammah	The Lord is There	Ezekiel 48:35
Ab, Abba, Pater	Father	Luke 15:20

Most of us have several names and perhaps one or two titles. Paul's name is "Mr. Paul Vincent Augustine Wordsworth-Edwards." Mary Tudor's full name was "Mary Queen of England, Spain, France, Jerusalem, both the Sicilies and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Archduchess of Austria, Duchess of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Countess of Habsburg, Flanders and Tyrol." Ugh! But that's a nick-named compared with God's name and titles (see the chart).

As you read the chart what do you notice about the names of God?



3. *God is a saving God.* God is on a mission – to seek and save a world of desperately lost people. He sent Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:8), to be the Savior of his people and the mediator between man and God in all our worship. This good news is the defining fact of our earthly existence. We have eternal life because Jesus died at Calvary, bore all our sins, and in his glorious resurrection, is now our ever-living Savior and High Priest.

Preaching is God speaking in the power of His Spirit, about His Son, from His word, through a man, to people.

Can you think of a hymn or song that celebrates this central reality – that God’s mission is to save us?

4. *God’s Incommunicable Attributes:* There are aspects of God’s intrinsic identity that are wholly unique to Him. These are absolute and un-shareable with His creation. Draw a line from the Scripture reference in the left-hand column with the attribute of God listed and defined on the right:

a. Jeremiah 23:23-24 -- Am I a God who is only close at hand?" says the Lord. "No, I am far away at the same time. Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not <u>everywhere</u> in all the heavens and earth?" says the Lord.
b. Deuteronomy 6:4 -- Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD <u>one God</u> .
c. Psalm 50:10-11 -- For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. I <u>know</u> every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine.
d. Ephesians 3:20 -- Now all glory to God, who is able, through his <u>mighty power</u> at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.
e. Psalm 90:2: Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from <u>everlasting to everlasting</u> , you are God
f. Isaiah 46:9-10 -- For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for <u>I do whatever I wish</u> .
g. Psalm 102:25-27-- Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but you remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them. But you are <u>always the same</u> ; you will live forever.
h. John 4:24 -- For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

1. Asceity — God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything.
2. Simplicity -- God is uncompounded, incomplex, and indivisible.
3. Immutability — God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises.
4. Eternity — God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being.
5. Omnipresence — God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being.
6. Omnipotence — God possesses infinite power and has the ability to do anything that does not contradict his nature.
7. Omniscience — God fully knows all things actual and possible— past, present and future.
8. Unity – God is not many but one.

You can imagine that sharing any of God’s incommunicable attributes, as a finite creature would be a frightening experience. How dreadful to have all power, all knowledge, and a presence everywhere and be human. While “playing God” for a day might be fun, being God is another matter altogether.

5. *God has a number of sharable or Communicable attributes:* There are aspects of God’s intrinsic identity that are not wholly unique to Him. They are seen in imperfect forms in His creation. Again, match the scripture references on the left with the attribute of God listed and defined on the right:

a.	1 Timothy 6:16 -- He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant <u>that no human can approach</u> him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will.
b.	Psalms 99:9 -- Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain in Jerusalem, for the LORD our God <u>is holy</u> !
c.	Deuteronomy 4:23-24 -- Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a <u>jealous</u> God."
d.	Romans 11:33 -- Oh, how great are God’s riches and <u>wisdom</u> and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!
e.	Jeremiah 10:10-11-- But the Lord is the living God and the everlasting King! The whole earth trembles at his anger. The nations cannot stand up to his <u>wrath</u> .
f.	Psalms 100:5 -- For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.
g.	Romans 3:23-25 -- For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous... For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin... This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past...
h.	1 John 5:20 -- And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the <u>true God</u> . And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.
i.	Deuteronomy 32:4 -- He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who <u>does no wrong</u> ; how just and upright he is!
j.	John 3:16 -- For God <u>loved</u> the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

1.	Wisdom — God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.
2.	Goodness — God is the final standard of good, and all that God is and does is worthy of approval.
3.	Pure Spirit — God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, and is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses.
4.	Truthfulness — He is the true God, and all his knowledge and works are both true and the final standard of truth.
5.	Love — God eternally gives of himself to others.
6.	Compassion/Grace/Patience — God is compassionate towards those in distress. He is grace-filled toward those who deserve only punishment. He is patient in withholding punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.
7.	Holiness — God is separated from sin, neither can He sin.
8.	Justice — God always acts in accordance with what is right and is Himself the final standard of what is righteous.
9.	Jealousy — God continually seeks to protect his own honor and will share His honor with no one.
10.	Wrath — God intensely hates all sin.

Pick one of God’s attributes. What is a question or statement you could make about God using that attribute?

