

HALF-HEARTED WORSHIP

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Joshua 23—Joshua 24

GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR FULL WORSHIP

JOSHUA 24:14-18

14 “Therefore, fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the LORD. 15 But if it doesn’t please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship — the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.” 16 The people replied, “We will certainly not abandon the LORD to worship other gods! 17 For the LORD our God brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, and performed these great signs before our eyes. He also protected us all along the way we went and among all the peoples whose lands we traveled through. 18 The LORD drove out before us all the peoples, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will worship the LORD, because he is our God.”

OUR WORSHIP INCLUDES OBEDIENCE

JOSHUA 24:19-25

19 But Joshua told the people, “You will not be able to worship the LORD, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions and sins. 20 If you abandon the LORD and worship foreign gods, he will turn against you, harm you, and completely destroy you, after he has been good to you.” 21 “No!” the people answered Joshua. “We will worship the LORD.” 22 Joshua then told the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you yourselves have chosen to worship the LORD.”

“We are witnesses,” they said. 23 “Then get rid of the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” 24 So the people said to Joshua, “We will worship the LORD our God and obey him.” 25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people at Shechem and established a statute and ordinance for them.

MAIN POINT.

True worship can't happen without our obedience.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION WORSHIP

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the praise and adoration He deserves. Worship should be carried out at a personal level within a Christian's life and at a community level by joining other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

DISCUSSION

GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR FULL WORSHIP JOSHUA 24:14-18

- 📖 • What does it mean to do something halfway? How do we fall into this type of worship?
- What keeps us from taking a stand like Joshua did to live for God even if others don't (v. 15)?
- ♥ • Israel's legacy was marked by idolatry. What needs to change so that modern believers leave a legacy of wholehearted worship?

OUR WORSHIP INCLUDES OBEDIENCE JOSHUA 24:19-25

- Look at verse 19. What about Joshua's response is confusing to you? What was he really saying?
- ✝ • Joshua called for Israel's obedience. How can any of us obey God?
- 👤 • Can we worship God without obeying Him? How does our understanding of worship and obedience need to change?



WHAT EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT YOU'RE WORSHIPING GOD THROUGH OBEDIENCE? HOW COULD THIS ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

How much of your social media life is superficial? How much of what you show to the world is real? We're really good at managing the perceptions people have of us. We control what kind of content we share; we control what pictures we post. Often, we only post the highs and not the lows. We showcase one side of a story. We can spin an event to look laid back and fun even though it may have been boring or stressful. We may be struggling with loneliness, but online, we appear to be surrounded by friends and good times. We create a fake reality online. If we're not careful, we do this with our faith too. We know how to manage perceptions: We look the part or say the right words, but in our hearts, we're far from God. We raise our hands in worship, but we walk in disobedience to our God. God calls us higher. He demands real, authentic faith. We can't manage our Maker's perception of us because He knows us, inside and out (1 Sam. 16:7).

Joshua 23-24

Text focus:

- God is worthy of our full worship
- Our worship includes obedience

Main point: True worship can't happen without our obedience

Family discussion

Is there any area of our lives where we might be worshiping God with our words, but not with our actions? What does it look like to serve God 'wholeheartedly' as a family? How can we practice this and encourage others to do the same?