GOD'S ATTRIBUTES · STUDY NOTES

Study 7: God is to be worshipped

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

PART 1

Knowing God, not only about Him

Is it possible that I can know God?

Knowing about God is very valuable. It helps us listen more carefully to what people say about God, and know whether it is right. But, as we have already seen, we are to know God for ourselves and have a personal relationship with Him, not simply know about Him.

We have also seen that we cannot know God without Jesus Christ. We can only have a relationship with God if our sins are forgiven, and only Jesus Christ can do that for us, through His death on the cross. We could also say that everything we know about God is meant to make us worshippers of God.

1 **Look up John 4:23–24**

What kind of worshippers is the Father seeking?

2 **Look up John 20:28**

What did Thomas say when he saw the risen Lord Jesus Christ?

3 **Look up Matthew 4:10, where Jesus answers the devil**

Whom alone are we to worship and serve?

So what does it mean to be a worshipper of God?

A worshipper of God is a converted person

A worshipper is someone who has been converted: someone who has seen their personal need of salvation and has turned to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of their sins.

4 **Look up Luke 12:4–5**

Whom does Jesus tell us to fear?

5 **Look up Acts 17:30**

What does God command all people to do?

When we have repented of our sin and believed in Jesus Christ and His saving work on the cross, we have a living relationship with God, and have become true worshippers and servants of God.

PART 2

Ruled by God, praying, loving His word

A worshipper wants to be ruled by God

Some people want to do everything their own way, with no one in authority over them. This is not so for the Christian, the true worshipper of God. Study 3 taught us that God is sovereign.

Jesus Christ, our Saviour, is also to be our Lord. In truth, we cannot receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour until we recognise Him as Lord.

In practice this means that when we recognise Him as Lord and Saviour, we will, with the Holy Spirit's help, become more and more like Him. For example, we will want more love and more holiness – the two qualities that especially mark God, as studies 5 and 6 showed us.

6 **Look up Hebrews 12:14**

Without what will no one see the Lord?

7 **Read the beatitudes in Matthew 5:3–10**

What does verse 8 say?

8 **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7**

What does verse 4 say about love?

We will want everything we do and everything we have to be under God's rule: in our families, with our friends and neighbours, and at work. We still fail as we try to obey the Lord and become like Him. But every true worshipper wants to change, to have a transformed life, and to live as a citizen of God's kingdom, under His rule.

A worshipper is a praying person

Those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ know that prayer matters. The desire to pray is close to the heart of every worshipper of God. Prayer is how they come to know God better after they have been converted. Read Matthew 6:9–13, the Lord's Prayer, to see how the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

9 **Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

How often are we to pray?

10 **Look up Colossians 4:2**

What does Paul say about prayer?

A worshipper is a person who is ready and willing to pray. Prayer is partly a confession that we believe God is sovereign and powerful. In prayer we submit to God's will and respond to His love.

A worshipper loves God's word

The Bible is where God has revealed Himself to us, showing us what He is like and who He is. So a worshipper will love the word of God. Psalm 119 describes a healthy attitude of love and respect towards God's word.

11 **Look up Psalm 119:16**

In what will the psalmist delight, and what will he not forget?

12 **Look up Psalm 119:24**

What does the psalmist call God's testimonies?

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we learn more of God's will from the Scriptures. They bring us closer to God's thinking about what we should believe and how we should live. Then we show that we know God by the lives we lead.

13 **Look up Psalm 119:11**

Where has the psalmist hidden God's word, and why?

PART 3

Loving God's people

A worshipper of God loves the people of God

To know God means we also love His people. The apostle John takes this up in his first letter.

14 **Look up 1 John 4:20**

What is anyone who says he loves God, but hates his brother?

So one way we, and everyone else, can see that we know and love God is that we love His people. God intends that knowing Him should not only be personal, but that we should grow in our knowledge of Him together with other believers – being together, praying together, working together, sharing together and learning together.

In one sense, all believers belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, because the true church is made up of every believer alive at any time (the universal church). But God intends His people to express their worship together as part of a local church. So part of the answer to the question "Who is God?" is that He is the One who calls people together to be His church. Joining a local church is the practical expression of our belonging to the universal church.

15 **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–18, about the church as the body of Christ**

What does verse 13 say?

Part of the life of the church is telling others who God is, and calling on them to follow Jesus Christ.

16 **Look up Matthew 28:19–20**

What does Jesus tell His followers to do, and what does He promise them?

When we understand who God is, we obey Him and follow His instructions on how to live as His people, both in our own holiness and together as His church. It is tragic, and very wrong, when people say they know who God is but show that they don't take Him seriously, living unholy lives or showing little love. People will recognise that we know God by what we believe about Him, and how we live as a result. Really knowing who God is will make us worshippers of God.

17 **Finally, read Revelation 1:16–17**

What did John do when he saw the Lord Jesus?

See also: something to read and consider: Ephesians 4:17–5:7; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31.

What next?

If you found this course helpful, you may also enjoy our free online course "Finding out about Christ". And if you have come to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, "Starting out as a Christian" will help you take your first steps. You'll find both on the Courses page of BibleHelp.net.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Do you simply know about God, or do you really know God?

2. What evidence is there in your life that you have come to know God?

3. Which mark of a worshipper (converted, ruled by God, praying, loving His word, loving His people) do you most need to grow in?

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 7

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

GOD'S ATTRIBUTES · STUDY 7 · MEMORY VERSE

“God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

John 4:24

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **John 4:23–24** *23But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. 24God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth."*

2 **John 20:28** *Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!"*

3 **Matthew 4:10** *"Away from Me, Satan!" Jesus told him. "For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"*

4 **Luke 12:4–5** *4I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. 5But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear the One who, after you have been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him!*

5 **Acts 17:30** *Although God overlooked the ignorance of earlier times, He now commands all people everywhere to repent.*

6 **Hebrews 12:14** *Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*

7 **Matthew 5:3–10** *3"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

8 **1 Corinthians 13:1–7** *1If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. 6Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

9 **1 Thessalonians 5:17** *Pray without ceasing.*

10 **Colossians 4:2** *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful,*

11 **Psalm 119:16** *I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.*

12 **Psalm 119:24** *Your testimonies are indeed my delight; they are my counselors.*

13 **Psalm 119:11** *I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.*

14 **1 John 4:20** *If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*

15 **1 Corinthians 12:12–18** *12The body is a unit, though it is composed of many parts. And although its parts are many, they all form one body. So it is with Christ. 13For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free, and we were all given one Spirit to drink. 14For the body does not consist of one part, but of many. 15If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18But in fact, God has arranged the members of the body, every one of them, according to His design.*

16 **Matthew 28:19–20** *19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

17 **Revelation 1:16–17** *16He held in His right hand seven stars, and a sharp double-edged sword came from His mouth. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest. 17When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. But He placed His right hand on me and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last,*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 7: God is to be worshipped

> **Memory verse:** “God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- Move from knowing about God to knowing Him, and so to worship.
- Explore five marks of a true worshipper: converted, ruled by God, praying, loving God's word, loving God's people.
- Close the course with a personal question, and point to the next course.

Suggested timing (about 75 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer.
- **20 min** Part 1 video (2 min); John 4:23–24, 20:28, Matthew 4:10, Luke 12:4–5, Acts 17:30.
- **25 min** Part 2 video (3 min); Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:3–10, 1 Corinthians 13:1–7, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Colossians 4:2, Psalm 119:16, 24, 11.
- **20 min** Part 3 video (3 min); 1 John 4:20, 1 Corinthians 12:12–18, Matthew 28:19–20, Revelation 1:16–17.
- **5 min** Closing prayer and next steps.

Tips

- Worship is a whole life, not only singing; the five marks make that practical.
- Encourage involvement in a local church as the setting for worship and service.
- Recommend the next step: "Finding out about Christ", or for new believers "Starting out as a Christian".

Answers to watch for

- **John 4:23–24:** worship the Father in spirit and in truth.
- **John 20:28:** "My Lord and my God!"
- **Matthew 4:10:** worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.
- **Luke 12:4–5:** fear Him who has authority to throw into hell.
- **Acts 17:30:** God commands all people everywhere to repent.
- **Hebrews 12:14:** without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- **Matthew 5:8:** blessed are the pure in heart.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4:** love is patient, love is kind.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2:** pray without ceasing; devote yourselves to prayer.
- **Psalm 119:16, 24, 11:** delight in God's word; hide it in your heart.
- **1 John 4:20:** whoever hates his brother cannot love God.
- **1 Corinthians 12:13:** one body, one Spirit.
- **Matthew 28:19–20:** make disciples of all nations.
- **Revelation 1:17:** John fell at His feet; "Do not be afraid."