

***** A Study of New Testament Worship Concepts *****

Worship Concepts **In The New Testament**

Worship Word Studies

Sunday, January 31, 2016

THRESKEIA

Define: Refers to external ceremonies and rituals of religious activity.

This word denotes the ceremonial worship of religion involving a priest, a Temple and a Ritual.

It is used only one time in the New Testament in the Greek sense. (Col. 2:18 – angel worship)

It is used in the Jewish sense in Acts 26:5.

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Acts 26:4-5

(4) "The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. (5) They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I lived as a Pharisee."

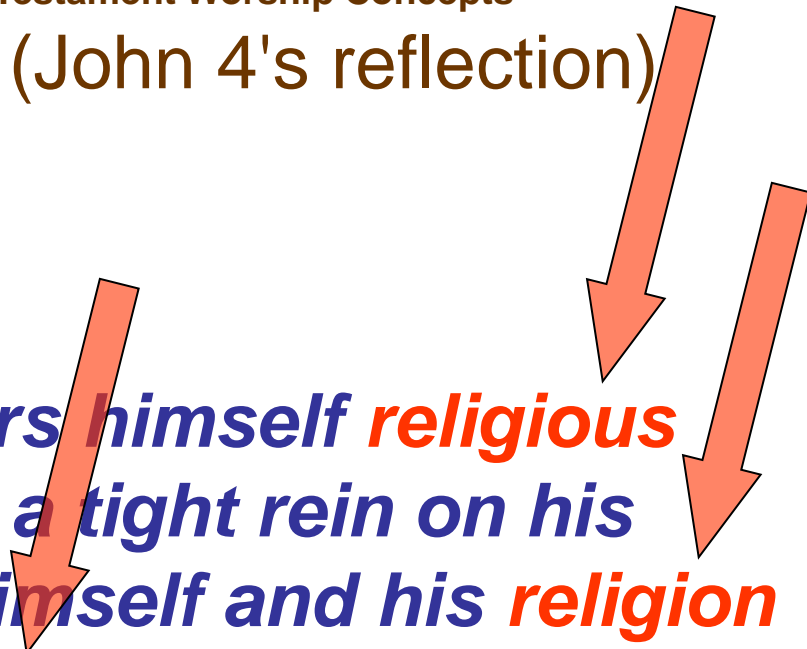


W.E.Vine - "Signifies religion in its external aspect, religious worship, especially the ceremonial service of religion."

The BROADENED use: (John 4's reflection)

James 1:26-27

*(26) If anyone considers himself **religious** and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his **religion** is worthless. (27) **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*



There are several things involved in worship in these verses.

James 1:26-27

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Worship involves the tongue and control of it.

If worship is something we do only at the “Worship Services,” how can this verse be completely relevant?

Is our worship “WORTHLESS” if we do not control our tongue in the assembly only?

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Does God have one standard for the assembly and then another for everyday life?

Can you see how our actions are affected by our concepts?

Has anyone you know ever changed their behavior because they were entering the assembly to “WORSHIP?”

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We make statements like, “You don’t come into God’s House and act that way.”

What are we saying?

Are we saying that the church building is God’s House and our behavior should be different because we have entered it...the PLACE of worship?

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Who or What is the House of God?

*“if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s **household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.**”
(I Timothy 3:15)*

Is the House of God where we meet or who we are?

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If the tongue is something we use daily and in the assembly, would acceptable worship involve how we used it either place?

James 1:27

(27) **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: **to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

James, who received his information from Jesus Himself, believes that worship includes the care of widows and orphans.

To “Look After” (NIV) – “VISIT” – (KJV)

Greek word: **EPISKEPTOMAI**
(ep-ee-skep'-tom-ahee)

James 1:27

(27) **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: **to look after orphans and widows** in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

To “**Look After**” (NIV) – “**VISIT**” – (KJV)

Greek word: **EPIKHEPTOMAI**

(ep-ee-skep'-tom-ahee)

The meaning of this word:

...to look upon or after, to inspect, examine with the eyes

...to look upon in order to help or to benefit

...to look after, have care for, provide for

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James 1:27

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To “**Look After**” (NIV) – “**VISIT**” – (KJV)

Greek word: **EPISKEPTOMAI**

Let's so a comparison.

Acts 20:28

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be shepherds of the church of God...”

EPISKOPOS

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To “Look After” (NIV) – “VISIT” – (KJV)

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Acts 20:28

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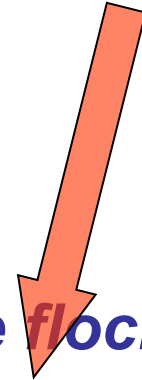
EPIKHOPOS

...an overseer

...a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent

...the elder, or overseer of a Christian church

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To “Look After” (NIV) – “VISIT” – (KJV)

Greek word: **EPIKHEPTOMAI**

EPIKHOPOS – elder, overseer, guardian

Is he telling the church to become elders?

Or, is he telling the church that the worship God accepts is to put your worship into practice helping the less able?

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James 1:27

(27) **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27 - religion - worship is:

Keeping yourself unstained from the world

KJV – Unspotted

Greek Word: **ASPILOS** - as'-pee-los

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James 1:27

(27) **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and **to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

Greek Word: **ASPILOS** - as'-pee-los

KJV - without spot 3 times, unspotted 1 time, 4 times as...

... spotless

... free from censure, irreproachable

... free from vice, unsullied

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James 1:27

(27) **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and **to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

So, could or would WORSHIP have anything to do with keeping my life in order?

Would the purity of my Christian character be a point of my worship to God?

Is this something I should come to the assembly to practice?

Or, is it daily?

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So what do we know so far.

LEITOURGIA

Worship is exercising our priestly duty in the temple of God.

EUSEBEO

Worship is a life response to God in all we say and do and how we live a worship filled life.

THRESKEIA

To employ the external ceremonies and rituals of religious activity as part of my worship?

Are any of these three concepts listed in the “Five Acts Of Worship,” as we have been told?

Are these words and their usage consistent with John 4?

Can I be willing to admit that there is more to worship than these “Five Acts?”

Worship is a life adventure, not a ritual belonging to a place and time.

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Our next word to discover...

PROSKUNEIO

This is the word used by most to define worship in the church today? What might we find here?

Does this study help us to understand that worship is much broader and more encompassing than “Five Acts” performed at a certain place and at a certain time?

Can we feel and touch that?

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