



QA: Why Should We Attend Services? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Our Elders teach that our whole life is 'worship.' Why should we attend services?

ANSWER: That is a good question. **Why, indeed?** It seems your Elders are teaching their own interpretation of Scripture that would take away any reason, at all, for assemblies for worship! Let's examine God's Word.

1. **There is a difference between the words "worship" and "service" which they have not understood.** The first time "worship" occurs in Scripture is in **Genesis 22**. In verse **2**, God told **Abraham**:

"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." [When Abraham arrived at Mt. Moriah, he said,] "The lad and I will go yonder and worship" (**Genesis 22:2, 5**).

Abraham understood that "worship" was a specific action (offering a burnt offering) at a specified place (yonder). When God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac somewhere to offer him as a burnt offering, why didn't Abraham simply say, "We are already worshipping You, now?"

Moses instructed Israelites,

"And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage." (**Deuteronomy 4:19**)

"All the whole host of heaven" are for "all the peoples under the whole heaven," but God did not want His people to "feel driven to worship" any "god" anywhere with anything! The psalmist declared,

Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool.
(**Psalms 132:7**)

God had designated the place and actions for "worship."

Jesus declared to the Samaritan:

"Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father." (**John 4:21**)

Jesus was saying that Mosaic specifics would not apply, not that "worship" would be one's life wherever one happened to be!

Though **Paul preached** the Gospel of Christ, and "many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (**Acts 18:8**), the "unlearned" who learned the Truth in their assembly would fall "down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you" (**1 Corinthians 14:25**). Christians "are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 2:5**), and these "sacrifices" require specific actions in a particular place: an assembly. Thus, on the first day of the week, Christians assemble to break bread and hear preaching (**Acts 20:7**), give (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**), sing (**Ephesians 5:19**), offer prayer (**Acts 12:5**). These are specific actions in a specific place (assembled Christians).

2. **"Service" includes "worship," but it is more.** Jesus told Satan,

"For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (**Matthew 4:10**)

"Worship" is a part of "service," but "service" also includes the rest of life. Paul thanked "God, whom I serve with a pure conscience" (**2 Timothy 1:3**), so that "whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). A Christian should truly glorify God with his/ her life, a portion of which should be devoted to "worship" sacrifices in assemblies with brethren. **Elders must be "examples to the flock"** (**1 Peter 5:2-3**) of thoroughly studying the Word of God!

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. (**Hebrews 13:7**)

The flock will follow Elders' teaching, so eternity hangs in the balance for their souls. Elders must not ignorantly, but completely, teach the Word of God!

--- jtpll, November 18, 2018