



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



What Ever Happened to Worship?

Pew Research conducted an online survey from December 4–18, 2017. Their survey sought to answer the question of why Americans go (and don't go) to religious services. Here are the ten main reasons people gave for why they attend church:

- To become closer to God. (81%)
- So their children will have a moral foundation. (69%)
- To become a better person. (68%)
- For comfort in times of trouble or sorrow. (66%)
- They find the sermons valuable. (59%)
- To be part of a faith community. (57%)
- To continue their family's religious traditions. (37%)
- They feel obligated to go. (31%)
- To meet new people or socialize. (19%)
- To please their family, spouse, or partner. (16%) [i]

Although 81% of respondents said they went to church to become closer to God, it is amazing that no one specifically mentioned they did it to worship God! They defined becoming closer to God in church as building their relationship with Him, having a moral foundation for their children, self-improvement, and finding comfort in tough times. There is no question these things are important. But what ever happened to worship?

A.W. Tozer said, "To great sections of the church the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the 'program.' This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us." As always, Tozer gives us quite a bit to ponder as we think about worship.

To understand biblical worship, perhaps we should begin with its definition.

True and Genuine Worship

William Barclay said: "True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible." Although Barclay elegantly provides us with a theologically profound definition, true worship cannot take place until we understand the greatness of our God.

True Knowledge of God

John Stott said, "The true knowledge of God will always lead us to worship, as it did Paul. Our place is on our faces before Him in adoration." When we truly understand the greatness of our God and what He has meant in our life, worship becomes a no-brainer. It brings us to a realization of His worthiness, which creates in us an appreciation for Him and a willingness to praise Him.

The Bible says, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8) When someone recommends for us to try a new food or restaurant, we check it out. If the experience is as reported, we go back and exclaim to our friend how great it was. In fact, we might even tell someone else! The psalmist is saying that we can try the Lord and see that He is good! When we have such an experience, we are led to worship.

Worship doesn't stop there, though. Dr. Tony Evans talks about a wonderful thing that happens, "As God rubs off on you, He gives you grace, peace, and power for all of life." The more we encounter Him in our worship, the more our worship leads to His praise. . . . [ii] [Full Article](#)

[i] <https://www.pewforum.org/2018/08/01/why-americans-go-to-religious-services/> August 1, 2018.

[ii] Evans, Dr. Tony, *Our God Is Awesome*, pg. 30, 1994, Moody Press.



The Artist and His Masterpiece

After February's crippling snowstorm in Texas, southern homeowners might consider snowfall a curse. Midwestern drivers might dismiss it as a road hazard. One rare breed of individuals sees the snow as an opportunity for artwork. Each year, snow sculptors breathe new life into the white powder and create masterpieces suitable for an art gallery.

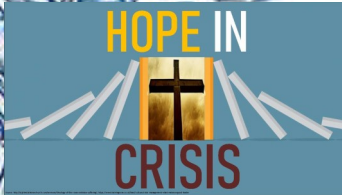
No one who has marveled at these impressive expressions of creativity, patience, and skill would ever tell you the snowflakes formed a committee, appointed a leader, and assembled themselves into their detailed designs. That would be ridiculous. Everyone knows a sculptor invested countless hours into his art. We acknowledge his talent and give credit where it's due. That's a form of worship.

Now let's pull out our microscopes and take a closer look at these snow structures. Tens of millions of individual snowflakes form each piece of art. Many of the 35 different types of snowflakes are contained within each structure. They appear in many different sizes and shapes. Each one has six sides because of the way water molecules are arranged in an ice crystal. Changing temperatures and humidity give each snowflake a design as unique as the path it takes from Heaven to Earth.

If human artists made the snow sculptures, then who made the snow? To deny a designer's role in snow creation is no more practical than subscribing to the "snowflake committee" theory. Snow formation follows consistent, scientific principles. These principles cannot operate without an intelli-

gent cause. The Bible calls Him God, and He's much more than an unseen, intelligent being. He is a personal God with whom we can have a relationship. Giving Him the credit He deserves for Creation could be a great first step towards this.

When it's directed toward God, worship is far more than acknowledgment of what He has done in Creation. It celebrates His Son, Jesus', sacrificial death on the cross. It makes the . . . [Full Article](#)



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