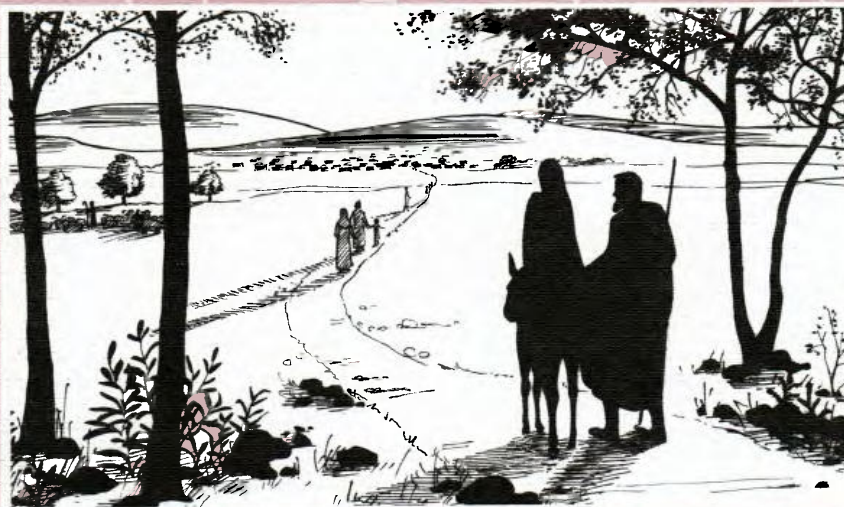
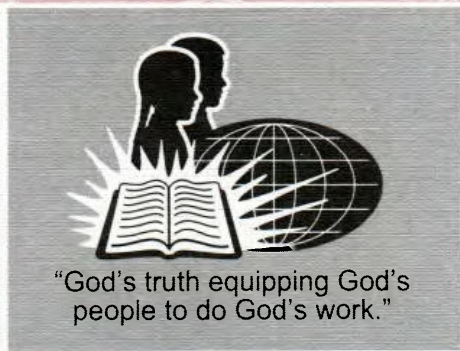




## “God’s light in the Bible”



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# **BIBLE 701**

## **WORSHIP**

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## RESOURCE MATERIALS

### Resources Needed:

1. Bible for reading exercises throughout LIGHTUNIT.
2. *Martyrs Mirror* for research for Exercise 3.35.

### Special Activity:

Give a report of a martyr's death, taken from the *Martyrs Mirror*, Exercise 3.35.



# WORSHIP

You were created to worship God. As you grow and learn more about God, your understanding of worship also needs to grow and mature. This LIGHTUNIT is designed to increase your understanding of worship. You will study more about how

you were made and why humans have trouble worshiping God correctly. You will learn more about how God wants us to worship Him. And in the last section, you will observe some examples of worship among God's people in the past.

## OBJECTIVES

★ **Study these objectives.** When you have successfully completed this LIGHTUNIT, you should be able:

1. To define the Biblical meaning of worship.
2. To tell why mankind has a problem with worshiping false gods.
3. To name several gods which drew the Israelites away from God in the Old Testament.
4. To name several things which draw people away from God today.
5. To name and define some of God's attributes.
6. To describe worship practices in the Old Testament.
7. To tell how worship has changed since Jesus came.
8. To describe activities and attitudes included in personal worship.
9. To describe several requirements for collective worship.
10. To list and describe several kinds of worship services common in the early church.
11. To describe the worship service in which the Anabaptists decided to form a Scriptural brotherhood.
12. To tell how persecution affected the worship of the Anabaptists.

**Preview your LIGHTUNIT.** Read the contents page, and then leaf through the LIGHTUNIT, noting main headings, pictures, charts, etc.



### Can you answer these questions?

- 0.1 What is the main subject of this LIGHTUNIT? \_\_\_\_\_
- 0.2 In which section will you study examples of worship? \_\_\_\_\_
- 0.3 Which statement is correct? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Worship now is different from worship in the Old Testament.
  - b. Worship has always been the same.
- 0.4 Mankind has a problem of worshiping false \_\_\_\_\_

## I. THE GOD WE WORSHIP

When we want to learn about God, we turn to the Bible. It is God's Word. In the Bible, God has revealed Himself to us and has shown us how to

come to Him. So as you study in this section, have your Bible ready. You will be studying about the God whom we love and worship.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

★ **Study these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able:

1. To define the Biblical meaning of worship.
2. To tell why mankind has a problem with worshipping false gods.
3. To name several gods which drew the Israelites away from God in the Old Testament.
4. To name several things which draw people away from God today.
5. To name and define some of God's attributes.

## VOCABULARY

★ **Learn the meaning of these words.** Knowing the meaning of these words will help you understand this section and enable you to use these words correctly.

**appropriate** (ə prō' prē ət). Proper, fitting, and right.

**attributes** (a' trə byüts'). Qualities which describe something or someone.

**corrupted** (kə rəp' təd). Defiled; made unfit or evil.

**flippant** (flip' ənt). Showing lightness when seriousness is fitting.

**infinite** (in' fə nət). Beyond any measurement; going on and on.

**prostrate** (präs' trāt'). To lie facedown, especially in honor of another.

**pursuit** (pər sūt'). A chase.

**transparent** (trans pâr' ənt). Clear; so that one can see through.

**trine** (trī' yün'). Three in one.



**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIGHTUNIT appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** a cat; ā bake; ä father; â care; au out; e pet; ē easy; ə alert; i trip; ī life; o cot; ō flow; ó order; òi oll; ù put; ü rule; ər blrd, herd, fur; hw which; ng sing; th these; yū use; yù furious; zh measure.



**Read Psalm 95:1-6.**

## THE HEART OF MAN

**God is the Creator.** He made all things, including man. But man is different from all the rest of creation. Man has the ability to communicate with God. He has an inner being, a soul and spirit, often referred to in the Bible as his "heart."

The heart of man, that is, his soul and spirit, gives him the ability to think things which none of the rest of creation can think and do. Most important, man can know God. He has the ability to hear and understand what God says to him, and he has

the ability to respond back to God. In other words, man has a heart to have fellowship with his Creator.

Worship is the **appropriate** response of man's heart to God. The psalmist wrote, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" (Psalm 95:6). The word *worship* in the Hebrew language means to **prostrate** oneself, to lay with face downward. This shows a reverence and fear in man's heart which is fitting for the greatness of God.

Anyone with a clear awareness of God's great presence will feel this urge in his heart to bow down. God's tremendous power gives man a feeling of humility and awe. His glorious beauty gives man a desire to adore Him. His **Infinite** wisdom fills the heart of man with praise. Worship, then, includes bowing down with humility, awe, adoration, and praise in our hearts before the presence of God. We have a God who is worthy of all our worship.



The Worshipping Old Testament Man



### Fill in the blanks.

- 1.1 Man's soul and spirit are often referred to in the Bible as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.2 Man's heart gives him the ability to a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ what God says and also to c. \_\_\_\_\_ back to God.
- 1.3 The Hebrew meaning of worship is to \_\_\_\_\_ oneself.
- 1.4 God's \_\_\_\_\_ gives man a feeling of humility and awe.
- 1.5 God's \_\_\_\_\_ gives man a desire to adore Him.
- 1.6 God's \_\_\_\_\_ fills the heart of man with praise.



### Complete this activity.

- △1.7 Write a sentence or two describing what is included in true worship. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



Read Genesis 3:1-5.

## THE PROBLEM OF FALSE GODS

Although man was created with a heart to worship God, his heart became **corrupted**. Satan tempted Eve to harden her heart to God and to disobey Him.

Satan told her, "Ye shall be as gods." What he really wanted was for Adam and Eve to replace God in their hearts. And sure enough, when Adam and Eve



sinned, their hearts were drawn away from God. Their spirits died within them, and in their hearts they began to feel fear and shame instead of peace and joy. They ran to hide. They covered their bodies with leaves, trying to take care of how they felt in their hearts toward God.

Sin separates people from God. Actually, when people sin, they are doing just the opposite of worship. Instead of bowing down in humility, they are standing up in pride. Instead of adoring God, they are loving themselves. Instead of praising God, they are denying His authority. By disobeying God, they are trying to act like little gods themselves. This is sin, and it drives people away from God.

And so, through Adam and Eve, sin came into the world. All Adam's children and grandchildren down through the ages have been born into a sinful world. In their hearts there is the ability to worship God. But there is also a deadness in their hearts that makes them willing to disobey God and go their own way.

Because fallen man has the ability to worship and yet doesn't want to worship God, he often makes his own gods. Of course, they are false gods. They cannot speak or move or do anything. But fallen man

worships them anyway.

When God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He showed His glorious power. He parted the Red Sea for the Israelites so that they walked through on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides. Imagine how the boys and girls might have run along the walls of water watching for fish! But no, likely they were too frightened by Pharaoh's army behind them. When they finally climbed out of the sea bed on the other side and Pharaoh's army was pouring through the channel in hot **pursuit**, God closed the sea. Terrified horses and soldiers screamed and shouted in vain. They all died, and the Israelites were safe.

Then the Israelites had a worship service. They sang and praised God. Probably many bowed down in prayer and adoration.

But only a few months later, when Moses was away on a mountain and seemed to have forgotten to come down, the Israelites asked Aaron to make them gods they could see. Aaron made them a golden calf. Around this calf the Israelites began to dance and sing, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (Exodus 32:8b).



**Moses with tables of stone**



How do you think God felt? Instead of continuing to worship the One who had created them and delivered them from Egypt, the Israelites were worshipping something they had made. And the metal

calf couldn't do a thing for them.

God was angry. Moses was angry. When he came down from the mountain, he had in his hands the Ten Commandments written by God's own hand.



### Read Exodus 20:1-11.

The very first commandment was "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." And the second was "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" (Exodus 20:3, 4). God does not want to be replaced. He hates false gods. They turn people's hearts away from Him. They rob Him of the worship and praise due to Him. When people follow false gods instead of the true God, they become wicked. They grow more sinful because they are following their own imagination.

Through leaders like Moses and Joshua, God commanded the Israelites to put away all false gods and serve Him. Sometimes they did. And when they did, God blessed them. But many times the Israelites strayed from God. At times they chose to worship the false gods of the people whom they fought against.

A god named *Baal* and his "wife" *Ashtoreth* were particularly troubling to the Israelites. When the

Israelites worshiped Baal, they committed terrible sins. For example, when a Baal-worshiper built a new house, he would place his newborn baby in a jar and cement the jar into the wall with the blocks. This was supposed to bless his house.

Another god, called *Molech* (MOH lek), was worshiped by offering children as sacrifices over a fire in the arms of the stone god. Is it any wonder God so hated false gods?

In North America, most people do not set up a stone image or a golden calf and then pray to it. Yet there are many things which can replace the true God. Some people love their houses, their clothes, their cars, their music, or their money. The love, devotion, and adoration which should be going to God goes to something else. This, too, is idolatry. It is replacing God. It is disobeying Him. Like Eve with the fruit, people today can choose to be their own gods.



### Answer these questions.

- 1.8 What did sin do to the heart of man? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.9 How did sin affect man's relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.10 Why does fallen man make false gods? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.11 How did God use His power for the Israelites when they were in danger? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.12 How did God use His power against Pharaoh and the Egyptians? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.13 What did the Israelites do immediately after their deliverance? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.14 What was the first false god the Israelites made after leaving Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.15 What was Moses receiving from God while the Israelites were worshipping? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.16 What is the first of the Ten Commandments? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.17 What is the second commandment? \_\_\_\_\_

1.18 Who were the god and goddess which seemed to attract the Israelites away from God most often?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

1.19 To which false god were babies sacrificed by fire? \_\_\_\_\_

1.20 What are five things which can be gods in North America?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_



**Complete this activity.**

Δ1.21

Write several sentences telling what idolatry is. \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE TRUE GOD

As we noted in the beginning of this section, proper worship of God depends upon proper understanding of God. We will now consider some things about God which are important for our understanding.

**God's attributes.** Attributes are qualities which someone or something has. For example, the attributes of a lemon include yellow color, sour taste, and round size. Glass, we would say, is hard, breakable, and often **transparent**. When we talk about God's attributes, we mean those qualities

which describe God.

The greater the object or person, the more complex are the attributes. Since God is greater than all, we must recognize right away that there are many things about God which we do not know. We can be glad God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. In His Word, He has described Himself. And further, God sent His own Son to show us more clearly who He is. But again, we must always realize that God is beyond our understanding. There are some things about Him which we cannot understand. We simply must believe what He says.



**Read Psalm 99:1-5.**

**God is holy.** God is completely righteous and true. There is nothing in Him which is wrong, corrupt, or sinful in any way. The Old Testament especially emphasizes the holiness of God. Because God is holy, many lambs, goats, and cattle were sacrificed on altars when people wanted to worship God in the Old Testament. These animals died for the people's sins. The offerings were a constant reminder to the people that they were worshiping a holy God. Without the animal sacrifices, the people's worship would not have been acceptable to God.

The New Testament reveals the holiness of God too. God is so holy that the animal blood was not enough to redeem us from sin. God gave His own Son to be a holy sacrifice for sin. Jesus' death on the cross ended animal sacrifice. His sacrifice was acceptable with God. And how grateful we should be! Jesus' death on the cross shows us how terrible sin is and how terrible is God's holy judgment upon it.

Knowing that God is holy affects our worship today. We may be joyful in our worship, joyful

beyond measure. But we must not be light and flippant. Imagine the feeling of joy in the hearts of family members who are pulled from a burning car after an accident. Suppose the man who saved them died in the fire. There they are, overjoyed that each

member is safe and alive. But in their hearts is a solemn awareness of the terrible price. God's holiness, as shown in the sacrifice of His Son, gives us a sober reverence too, even in our joy.



**Read I John 4:7-10.**

**God is love.** Much as God hates sin, He loves men and women, boys and girls. He "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9b). In one sense, we might say that God could have justly destroyed sinful mankind. But God is loving. He cares about people. He is willing to show His mercy to those who will humble themselves and repent of their sin.

Even as the cross reveals God's holiness, it also reveals God's love. Although God showed His love in the Old Testament, nothing in all history shows us His love like the sacrifice of His Son. Again imagine the fiery car accident. It would be a great act of love for someone to give his life for his friends. It would be a greater act of love if he gave his life for

strangers. But what kind of love would prompt a man to give his life for his enemies? Yet God gave His Son as a sacrifice for sinners, for creatures who had chosen not to worship their Creator. Surely, God IS love!

When we accept and come to know God's great love, our hearts are filled with worship. It is fitting to kneel before God, to prostrate ourselves in humility and reverence. It is right to lift our voices in heartfelt praise and adoration. It is appropriate to listen attentively to what God has to say through His ministers. And it is reasonable that we offer our lives in obedience and service. As the Apostle John wrote, "We love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19).



**Choose the best answer.**

- 1.22 The attributes of God could best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. things we don't know about God  
b. God's special messengers  
c. qualities which tell what God is like  
d. written revelations which describe God completely
- 1.23 God's holiness is emphasized especially in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Old Testament  
b. New Testament
- 1.24 In the New Testament, God's holiness is revealed most in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Jesus' birth  
b. animal sacrifices  
c. the promise of the Holy Spirit  
d. Jesus' death on the cross
- 1.25 God's willingness to sacrifice His Son for our sin shows us \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. God doesn't love His Son  
b. God loves us more than He loves His Son  
c. God's holiness required a holy sacrifice  
d. animal sacrifices were wrong in the Old Testament

- 1.26 God's holiness keeps true worship from becoming \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. joyful c. flippant  
 b. sad d. meaningful
- 1.27 God's greatest revelation of His love was shown \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. in the sacrifice of His Son c. in the animal sacrifices  
 b. in the Old Testament d. when we began to love Him
- 1.28 The most amazing love is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. love for family c. love for strangers  
 b. love for friends d. love for enemies
- 1.29 God's love will inspire our worship in each of the following ways except \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. offering animal sacrifices c. serving God in obedience  
 b. singing praises with joy d. listening to God's ministers



**Read Romans 5:6-8 and fill in the blanks.**

- 1.30 According to verse 7, most people would hesitate to give their lives for even a \_\_\_\_\_ person.
- 1.31 According to verse 8, Jesus died for us when we were yet \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.32 Jesus' death shows us God's great \_\_\_\_\_.



**Read Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 6:19; Colossians 2:8, 9; and John 15:26.**

**God is triune.** In the Old Testament, we do not read much about the three distinct Persons in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God emphasized that He is One God, and that beside Him there is no other. This was in contrast to the heathen belief in many gods. Yet God spoke of Himself in the plural sense. In creating man, for example, God did not say, "I'm going to make man in my image." Rather, He said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26).

When Jesus came, He revealed three distinct Persons in the Godhead—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Although the Father is not the same Person as the Son, nor is the Son the same Person as the Holy Spirit, yet these three are one God. They are so one that Jesus said to Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). And yet they are so three that Jesus shortly later promised, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16, 17).

Three Persons and yet one God—we cannot fully understand it nor fully explain it, but we must fully believe it. We have come to call this three-in-one God the **Triune** God, or the Trinity.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit together have all the attributes of God. The Father is holy, the Son is holy, and the Spirit is holy. The Father is love, the Son is love, and the Spirit is love. But while together they are one God, each Person of the Trinity seems to have a distinct place and function in the Godhead. The Son came to earth as Redeemer. The Spirit has come as the Life-Giver and Comforter to indwell those who believe in Jesus. The Father has sent both His Son and His Spirit and will in the end bring all things to a close, gathering the faithful to Himself. Each Person in the Godhead has His function, and yet, the three Persons are so one that they are united in all that they do. The Father does nothing alone, nor does the Son, nor does the Holy Spirit. What one Person does, He does in unity with the Godhead, in the power and wisdom of the three-in-one.

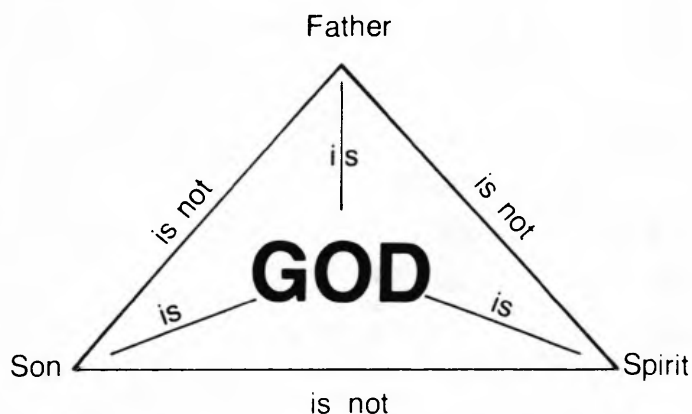


Is that hard to understand? No human can understand it fully. Realizing that God is beyond our understanding adds reverence to our worship.

If what we do know fills us with awe and wonder, what greatness and wisdom and strength must there be which we know nothing about!

The Father is not the Son.  
The Son is not the Spirit.  
The Spirit is not the Father.

The Father is God.  
The Son is God.  
The Spirit is God.



### Complete these activities.

- 1.33 The following statements are about the Trinity. If a statement is correct, mark it C; if it is not correct, mark it X.
- a. \_\_\_\_ The Old Testament clearly revealed a triune God.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ Each of the three Persons of the Trinity has a function which He does alone.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ The Father sent both the Son and the Holy Spirit.
  - d. \_\_\_\_ The Old Testament referred to God in the plural.
  - e. \_\_\_\_ The attributes of God are divided among the three Persons.
  - f. \_\_\_\_ Each Person of the Trinity is distinct and yet the three are united as one God.
  - g. \_\_\_\_ The term *Godhead* refers primarily to the Father.
- 1.34 The attributes described in your LIGHTUNIT are only a few of many qualities God has. Read Psalm 36:5-10 and write the attributes you find in each verse listed below.
- a. verse 5: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. verse 6: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. verse 7: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.35 The following words describe other attributes of God. Some of these are not named in the Bible, but are described. Look up the word in a dictionary. Then read the verse for that attribute, and in your own words tell what that attribute means.
- a. omnipotent (Luke 1:37) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. omniscient (John 16:30; Psalm 139:4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10) \_\_\_\_\_



**Review what you have read and done.** Do you understand the material you have completed and do you know the objectives and vocabulary? This Self Check will show if you have mastered what you have studied thus far.



## SELF CHECK 1

**Match these items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |      |                 |  |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 1.01 | _____ worship   | a. something which cannot be known                             |
| 1.02 | _____ heart     | b. showing lightness when seriousness is proper                |
| 1.03 | _____ idolatry  | c. to give reverence, praise, and devotion                     |
| 1.04 | _____ attribute | d. quality about something or someone                          |
| 1.05 | _____ flippancy | e. the inner being including soul and spirit                   |
| 1.06 | _____ Godhead   | f. replacing God as the object of worship                      |
|      |                 | g. the three-in-one God including Father, Son, and Holy Spirit |

**Read each description about God and write the name of the attribute** (each answer, 3 points).

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| 1.07  | _____ | Having unlimited power; able to do anything.            |
| 1.08  | _____ | Completely righteous and true; without sin in any form. |
| 1.09  | _____ | Existing in three Persons.                              |
| 1.010 | _____ | Knowing all things.                                     |
| 1.011 | _____ | Being present everywhere at all times.                  |
| 1.012 | _____ | Willingness to sacrifice to meet the needs of others.   |

**Beside each description write the name of the false god** (each answer, 3 points).

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| 1.013 | _____ | Children were sacrificed in his arms over fire.                                   |
| 1.014 | _____ | Wife of Baal.   |
| 1.015 | _____ | Israelites danced around this god while Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments. |
| 1.016 | _____ | The Israelites often worshiped this god.  |

**Complete these activities** (each numbered item, 5 points).

- 1.017 Name at least five things which may be gods to people living in North America.
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ |          |
- 1.018 Give the first of the Ten Commandments. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.019 Beside each item, write W if it is included in true worship; write X if it is not.
- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| a. _____ | Singing praise to God.                                     |
| b. _____ | Listening to God's ministers.                              |
| c. _____ | Bowing down in God's presence with humility and reverence. |
| d. _____ | Serving God in obedience.                                  |
| e. _____ | Devoting oneself to money and earthly possessions.         |

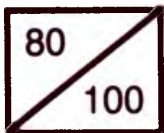
- 1.020 Tell how God's love for us was higher than a person giving his life for friends, for family, or even for strangers. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.021 Who were the first two people to deny God's authority and become gods to themselves? \_\_\_\_\_

**Write true or false** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.022 \_\_\_\_\_ Sinful people do not have the ability to worship.
- 1.023 \_\_\_\_\_ Sinful people do not want to worship the true God.
- 1.024 \_\_\_\_\_ The greatest act of God's love in all history was His deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt.
- 1.025 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Old Testament, God sometimes referred to Himself in the plural (us, our, etc.).
- 1.026 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Old Testament, God described Himself clearly as a triune God.
- 1.027 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is the name of God, no matter if we speak of the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.
- 1.028 \_\_\_\_\_ Each Person of the Trinity shows the attributes of God.
- 1.029 \_\_\_\_\_ What one Person of the Trinity does, He does in the power and wisdom of the three-in-one.
- 1.030 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Hebrew language, the word *worship* means to lie face downward.

**Match these items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |       |   |                        |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| 1.031 | _____ Sent the Son and the Spirit to earth                    | a. God the Father      |
| 1.032 | _____ Gives life and comfort to believers by indwelling them. | b. God the Son         |
| 1.033 | _____ Came to earth as the Redeemer.                          | c. God the Holy Spirit |



--	--	--

## II. HOW WE WORSHIP

The God we worship has always been the same. But He has revealed Himself to mankind step by step. Jesus was and is the most complete revelation of God ever given. In other words, we can understand God most clearly by learning to know Jesus. Before Jesus came, the prophets often were puzzled about things God told them concerning Himself and the coming Messiah.

The time before Jesus came is known as the Old

Testament. Since the revelation of God was not complete in the Old Testament, worship practices were somewhat different from what they are today in the New Testament. But since the same God has been worshiped in both covenants, there are also many similarities. In this section, you will learn more about how worship practices have changed. You will also study more about how we worship God today.

### SECTION OBJECTIVES

- ★ **Study these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able:
6. To describe worship practices in the Old Testament.
  7. To tell how worship has changed since Jesus came.
  8. To describe activities and attitudes included in personal worship.
  9. To describe several requirements for collective worship.

### VOCABULARY

- ★ **Learn the meaning of these words.** Knowing the meaning of these words will help you understand this section and enable you to use these words correctly.

**anthem** (an' thəm). A song of joyous praise.

**appointed** (ə point' əd). Chosen; picked out.

**collective** (kə lek' tiv). Being together as members of the same group.

**decency** (dēs' ən sē). That which is honorable and right so as not to cause shame.

**edify** (ed' ə fī'). To do or say upbuilding things to others.

**exhortation** (eks' ór tā' shən). The act of telling people helpful things.

**formal** (fór' məl). Doing things in a set and solemn way.

**hallowed** (hal' ōd). Holy and sacred.

**intricate** (in' tri kət). Put together with fine or complicated details.

**precision** (pri sizh' ən). The quality of being exact.

**recited** (ri sīt' əd). Said from memory.

**solitary** (sol' ə ter' ē). Without anyone around; alone.

**spectacular** (spek tak' yə lər). Causing people to gather around in wonder and admiration.





## CHANGES IN WORSHIP

Imagine you had lived 3,000 years ago in the land of Palestine as a young Jew. How would life have been different for you?



**Read II Chronicles 5:1-10 and 7:1-3.**

**Old Testament worship.** Benjamin is an imaginary Jewish boy present at the dedication of the temple which Solomon has just completed. For seven years workmen have been piecing together giant stones, huge timbers, finely carved woodwork, precious stones, and shining gold and silver finishings. Benjamin, along with many other boys and girls, has watched from a distance and marveled as the immense building took shape. The glory of the building project is all the more awesome because at the job site not a sound of hammer or nails or chopping or shaping has been heard. Each piece of the **intricate** building has been cut and shaped to **precision** at a distant place and has been brought to the temple to be quietly and reverently put into place.

Many times Benjamin has watched glittering pieces of gold and silver being carried to the temple and has wondered where each piece would fit. Now the temple is being dedicated. Benjamin is gathered with thousands of other Israelites for the occasion. In spite of the vast group, all can see the magnificent temple. Set like a jewel on the top of a hill, its majestic pillars, golden doors, and glistening stone walls stand out clearly against the blue sky.



**Solomon's temple**

A hush falls over the great crowd as the priests in gleaming white robes begin leading animals to the area in front of the temple. The animals are being prepared for sacrifice.

But before the actual sacrifice begins, a silent procession, led by the high priest, carries a blue-

draped burden up the temple steps and disappears into the temple. Benjamin knows they are carrying the ark of the covenant, the most sacred article in the temple. In this gold-plated box are the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, which God gave Moses some 500 years before.

The priests return carrying two shining golden poles. These poles have been used to carry the ark from place to place when the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. Now the ark has a home, a sacred, shining place to stay. And the poles will no longer be needed.

A cymbal sounds, and instantly stringed instruments and singers begin an **anthem** of praise. A joyous yet hushed murmur sweeps through the crowd. The temple! Oh, the glorious temple of God! Men and women around Benjamin begin weeping. Some raise their hands in thanksgiving and praise to God. Benjamin feels a lump rising in his own throat.

And suddenly he finds himself wanting to kneel, to bow down to the ground. The sun has neither darkened nor become brighter, yet Benjamin feels a change, something like a cloud has passed over the sun, but the light has brightened rather than dimmed. As one man, the vast audience bows to the ground, and then Benjamin knows. This is God. This is God's glory! Benjamin wants to look at the temple, for he now imagines it to be far more glorious than before. But he dares not. Something about that awesome Presence keeps him with his face to the ground.

Then Benjamin hears the sound of a clear voice. Out over the valley and the sea of people it floats, rich and strong. King Solomon is praying. Earnestly he prays that God will make the temple His special place on earth, so that here His people can worship and pray. As Benjamin follows the long prayer, his own heart joins in pleading that God, this glorious God, will enter this wonderful temple and stay.

When the prayer ends, Benjamin and the people raise their heads and look toward the temple. All

seems to be still. Suddenly, the glory which they had felt becomes visible. Fire descends from heaven upon the sacrifices. A glorious light shines over the whole temple area. The white-robed priests, in fear and wonder, move back from the temple. And then again, the people bow in worship before the glory of

the Lord.

Soon the beautiful songs of praise begin again, and Benjamin finds himself joining with the mighty crowd of men and women, boys and girls, as in unison they shout and sing, "The Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever!"



### Answer these questions.

- 2.1 What building was the center of Old Testament worship? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2 Who built it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3 What was amazing about the way Solomon's temple was put together? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.4 Upon what was the temple built? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.5 What was in the ark of the covenant? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.6 Why were the carrying poles taken out of the ark? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.7 What did Solomon pray for at the dedication? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.8 How were the sacrifices set on fire? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.9 What caused the people to bow down in worship? \_\_\_\_\_



### Complete this activity.

- 2.10 Write *W* beside each item which was part of Old Testament worship in the temple; write *X* beside each item which was not.
- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. _____ prayer             | d. _____ a sermon          |
| b. _____ animal sacrifices  | e. _____ music and singing |
| c. _____ a beautiful temple | f. _____ priests           |



### Read John 4:19-24.

**New Testament worship.** By the time Jesus came, Solomon's temple had been destroyed, another temple had been built and destroyed, and a third temple stood on the hill in Jerusalem. This was called Herod's Temple because Herod had built it for the Jews.

During the time when the Jews had been without a temple, they had begun the practice of meeting in synagogues. In Jesus' day, Jewish synagogues could be found in almost any city where Jews lived. On the Sabbath day, at least ten Jews were required

for worship services in a synagogue. They **recited** Scriptures, prayed, read **appointed** passages from the Law and the Prophets, and had someone give an explanation. Still, Jerusalem was the holy city, and the temple was the central place of worship.

When Jesus talked to the woman of Samaria, He spoke of changes in worship. No longer would worship be centered at Jerusalem. Instead of people coming to a beautiful building with worship focusing on ceremonies and sacrifices, there would be spirit-to-Spirit fellowship focused on truth.

After Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, those who believed in Him received the Holy Spirit. Wherever they went, the Holy Spirit was with them. He helped them to remember and understand the things Jesus had taught them. He showed them new truths. When they met for worship, they spoke to one another about the truth which the Holy Spirit was showing them. They prayed, sang, preached, and encouraged each other in wonderful times of worship. They could worship anywhere—in the temple, in a private

home, or out in an open field. They did not need a priest to make an offering for them. Jesus in heaven was their spiritual Priest. He had made their offering. Even an individual believer could worship in prayer, song, or spiritual fellowship with the Father at any time in any place.

And so, it was just as Jesus had told the Samaritan woman it would be. "The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23).



### Fill in the blanks.

- 2.11 By Jesus' time, there had been \_\_\_\_\_ different temples.
- 2.12 The temple in Jerusalem at Jesus' time had been built by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.13 Worship buildings (other than the temple) were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.14 The central place of Jewish worship was the a. \_\_\_\_\_ in the city of b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.15 The focus of Old Testament worship was on a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.16 Jesus said the focus of spiritual New Testament worship would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.17 The One who shows truth to New Testament believers is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.18 The Priest of New Testament believers is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.19 The offering for New Testament believers was made by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.20 Jesus described changes in worship to a \_\_\_\_\_ woman.



### Write *O.T.* beside each description of Old Testament worship; write *N.T.* beside each description of New Testament worship.

- 2.21 \_\_\_\_\_ worship anywhere at any time
- 2.22 \_\_\_\_\_ reading appointed Scriptures from the Law and the Prophets
- 2.23 \_\_\_\_\_ needing at least ten people for a worship service
- 2.24 \_\_\_\_\_ spirit-to-Spirit fellowship
- 2.25 \_\_\_\_\_ worship center at the mountain in Jerusalem
- 2.26 \_\_\_\_\_ worship in spirit and in truth

---

## PERSONAL WORSHIP

In the New Testament, God calls each believer into fellowship with Him. Each Christian, then, is a personal worshiper of God. He has a relationship

with his Creator in which he reverences God as his personal God. Several activities and attitudes are important to maintaining this personal worship.



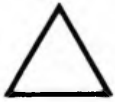
## Read Matthew 6:5-15.

**Prayer and humility.** Jesus taught us that prayer is one way of personally worshiping the Father. But not all prayer is worship. The Pharisees enjoyed praying in places where others could see and hear and be impressed with their "righteousness." This proud praying, Jesus said, does not please the Father. It is not worship. It is just the opposite. Instead of glorifying God as God, proud praying is lifting ourselves up for others to see and admire.

Humility, then, is one of the necessary attitudes

in true prayer. Those who find a **solitary** place and pray simply to be heard by the Father are the ones the Father wants to hear.

Humble prayers glorify God. In the example prayer Jesus gave, notice how the prayer begins and ends with praise to God. "**Hallowed** be thy name. . . . Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever." Prayers of praise coming from humble hearts are pleasing to God. This is one way we worship the Father in spirit and in truth privately.



## Read II Timothy 3:14-17 and James 1:22.

**Bible reading and obedience.** In prayer we talk to God. When we read the Bible, God talks to us. Hearing the words of God as we read is as important as God hearing our words when we pray. If in our hearts we are responding to God as we read His Word, we are worshiping in spirit and in truth.

But as James points out, we must not only hear the Word of God, but do it as well. The attitude and response of obedience is part of our worship of God. If we read God's Word worshipfully and then go away and forget what we have read and even disobey what God has told us, our worship is not complete. It is not pleasing to the Father. As Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

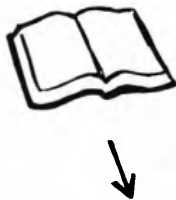
So then, we can worship the Father as we read His Word, responding reverently to what He is saying; and we can continue to worship Him as we go through the day, joyfully obeying what we have heard. Those who pray and read God's Word in private and who follow up with obedience are personally worshiping God in spirit and in truth.

# GOD



**Prayer**

We talk to God.



**Bible Reading**

God talks to us.



### Fill in the blanks.

- 2.27 Two activities included in personal worship are a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.28 For prayer to be acceptable as worship, we must have an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.29 For Bible reading to be complete as worship, we must \_\_\_\_\_ what we have read.
- 2.30 The example prayer which Jesus gave to His disciples begins and ends with \_\_\_\_\_.



# BIBLE: 701

## LIGHTUNIT TEST



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE 701: LIGHTUNIT TEST

**Write W beside each statement which is true about worship; write X beside each statement which is not true** (each answer, 3 points).

1.     \_\_\_ The original meaning of worship was to prostrate oneself.
2.     \_\_\_ Giving is a proper part of New Testament worship.
3.     \_\_\_ Old Testament worship focused on ceremony and sacrifice.
4.     \_\_\_ Spiritual gifts, love, edification, decency, and order are requirements for proper collective worship.
5.     \_\_\_ In the New Testament, worship in a building is wrong.
6.     \_\_\_ Some worship services in the early church were prayer meetings.
7.     \_\_\_ Some worship services in the early church had no set starting or stopping time.
8.     \_\_\_ Sometimes in the early church a few disciples would turn a public meeting into a preaching service.
9.     \_\_\_ Baptism, ordination, and Communion should take place in every worship service.
10.    \_\_\_ Confusion and formality are extremes we should avoid in worship.
11.    \_\_\_ At the time of the Anabaptists, Jerusalem was the center of worship.
12.    \_\_\_ Desiring spectacular gifts is an important part of true worship in the New Testament.
13.    \_\_\_ Sinful man is unable to worship anyone or anything.
14.    \_\_\_ Baal, Ashtoreth, and Molech helped the Israelites to worship God.

**Write / beside each statement which is true about idolatry; write X beside each statement which is not true** (each answer, 3 points).

15.    \_\_\_ Sinful man has trouble with idolatry because he does not want to acknowledge God.
16.    \_\_\_ The first of the Ten Commandments is against idolatry.
17.    \_\_\_ Devoting oneself to houses, cars, music, or money is a form of idolatry.
18.    \_\_\_ Replacing God as the object of worship is idolatry.
19.    \_\_\_ The Israelites had trouble with idolatry, but people today do not have trouble with idolatry.

**Write G beside each statement which is true about God; write X beside each statement which is not true** (each answer, 3 points).

20.    \_\_\_ God revealed Himself clearly as a triune God in the Old Testament.
21.    \_\_\_ The Godhead includes the angels.
22.    \_\_\_ When we say God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, we are naming attributes of God.
23.    \_\_\_ When we say God is triune, we mean He always has existed and always will exist.
24.    \_\_\_ In the Old Testament, God sometimes referred to Himself in the plural (us, our, etc ).
25.    \_\_\_ Each Person of the Trinity shows the attributes of God

**Fill in the blanks** (each answer, 4 points).

26. The date when 16 men baptized each other to form a Scriptural brotherhood was \_\_\_\_\_ .
27. On this evening, the first baptism occurred when a. \_\_\_\_\_ asked  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ to baptize him with the true Christian baptism.
28. The Anabaptist leader who was weakened by his stay in the New Tower and died of the plague a few months later was \_\_\_\_\_ .
29. The Anabaptist leader who was drowned in the Limmat River was \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Complete this activity** (this item, 5 points).

30. Tell how severe persecution made Anabaptists' worship in some ways different from worship as we know it in a free country. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES





### Complete these activities.

- 2.31 Explain how proud praying is the opposite of worship. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.32 Explain how personal worship can continue after we have read a passage from the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

One of the unique things about Christianity is that each believer can have a personal relationship with God. He does not have to go through a priest. His worship is not limited to a particular place. Anywhere he is, at any time, he can worship the Father.

But the New Testament did not do away with **collective** worship. It is proper and right for believers to gather in a particular place regularly for

united worship. In fact, whatever the believer experiences in private worship may be experienced in a larger way in collective worship. Each believer prays privately, and the assembled believers pray collectively. Each believer reads the Bible privately, and the assembled believers read the Bible collectively. Each believer obeys what God says, and the believers unitedly obey what God says in His Word.



The health and power of collective worship is much dependent upon the health of each member's personal worship. Those who truly worship in private are attentive and reverent in the assembly of worshipers. So then, one of the most basic requirements of collective worship is people whose personal worship is healthy.

There are also a few activities which seem to be especially suited to collective worship. A believer

may sing in private. And yet, most songs of worship were written to be sung by the assembly of believers. The New Testament encourages such singing in the church. Furthermore, offerings are taken in the assembly as part of the worship experience. New Testament believers are encouraged to give cheerfully as unto the Lord. It is an important part of collective worship.



Read I Corinthians 12:4-11.

**Spiritual gifts.** The Holy Spirit, who motivates personal worship, also motivates and controls collective worship. The spiritual gifts He gives to the members are not only for the times of worship, and yet many of the gifts are exercised in public worship. These gifts enable each member to take his part—whether teaching, preaching, leading, or making decisions—with the power and wisdom of God. The spiritual gifts, operating properly in worship, make the worshipers aware of God's presence.

Some Christians have been drawn away from true

worship by trying to exercise spiritual gifts in a wrong way. The Corinthians, for example, began to desire the more **spectacular** gifts so that they might receive personal attention. You can easily see how this takes people away from true worship of God. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that the most important gifts are those such as prophecy, teaching, and **exhortation**, which instruct people in the truth. That makes sense because true worship, you remember, focuses on truth and on God's glory, not on man's glory.

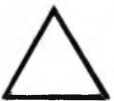


**Read I Corinthians 13:1-3.**

**Love.** Collective worship is uniting with other believers in spiritual fellowship. Whenever Christians work together, love is necessary. It is the reason for all Christian service, including what we do in worship. No matter how well we might pray or teach or sing or listen in public worship, if we

are not prompted by love, we are not truly worshipping.

Love which guides worship is first a love for God, but it also includes love for fellow believers. Again, worship is spiritual fellowship. And love makes fellowship a blessed experience.



**Read I Corinthians 14:26.**

**Edification.** When Christians meet for worship, they wish to **edify** each other. This means they do and say things to make each other stronger and more effective as Christians. Edification is the result of love, of caring for others. Any part we may have in

collective worship is not for self-glory but to help fellow believers. If collective worship is to be meaningful and pleasing to God, all things must be done for edification.



**Read I Corinthians 14:40.**

**Decency and order.** After giving many instructions concerning worship, the Apostle Paul said worship should be conducted with **decency** and order. Some people have claimed to become so happy praising the Lord that they jump around shouting, or worse yet, roll on the floor. This is not decent. It is the sort of thing unbelievers might do in wild parties or ball games but certainly ought not to be done in worship of our holy God.

Doing things orderly does not mean everything needs to be done the same way each time. Indeed, some groups have become far too **formal**. In contrast to this formality, others have tried to worship without any planning or order. They want "freedom"

to do whatever they feel like in worship. In meetings such as these, several people may be speaking or praying or singing at the same time. This is confusion.

Between formality and confusion is a better way. Orderly worship takes preparation and planning. Songs, sermons, and Scripture readings should be chosen with prayer beforehand. At the same time, the Lord may direct someone to give a testimony, an encouragement, a song, or even a sermon on the spur of the moment. If this is done decently and in order, it is proper and fitting for worship.

Most important in collective worship is the

guiding presence of God. When God is present, decency, order, and true freedom to worship God He will give spiritual gifts to those who worship. acceptably.  
There will be edification in love. There will be

---



**Complete these activities.**

- 2.33 Name two activities which seem especially suited to collective worship.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.34 Tell what healthy collective worship is dependent upon. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.35 List five other requirements for collective worship.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.36 Describe the spiritual gifts which are most important for collective worship. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.37 List and describe the two extremes on either side of orderly worship.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.38 Explain the relationship between love and edification. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Write true or false.**

- 2.39 \_\_\_\_\_ Regular meetings for worship at a particular place were only for the Old Testament.
- 2.40 \_\_\_\_\_ Whenever spiritual gifts are exercised in worship, they become a distraction.
- 2.41 \_\_\_\_\_ The desire for spectacular gifts detracts from worship.
- 2.42 \_\_\_\_\_ Without love, acts of worship are meaningless.
- 2.43 \_\_\_\_\_ To edify fellow Christians means to do and say things which make them more effective as Christians.
- 2.44 \_\_\_\_\_ There should be a marked difference between the way Christians express their happiness in a worship experience and the way unbelievers might express their happiness at a ball game.
- 2.45 \_\_\_\_\_ True freedom in worship is freedom to do as the Lord directs, but not necessarily freedom to do as anyone pleases.
- 2.46 \_\_\_\_\_ An example of true freedom in worship is several people testifying at the same time.



**Review what you have read and done.** Do you understand the material you have completed, and do you know the objectives and vocabulary? This Self Check will show if you have mastered what you have studied thus far.



## SELF CHECK 2

**Match these items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |       |                      |   |
|-------|----------------------|---|
| 2.01  | _____ edification    | a. enables believers to do things with God's wisdom and power   |
| 2.02  | _____ omniscient     | b. giving to another the love and devotion which belongs to God |
| 2.03  | _____ synagogue      | c. upbuilding words and activities                              |
| 2.04  | _____ spiritual gift | d. completely righteous and true                                |
| 2.05  | _____ formality      | e. means literally to prostrate oneself                         |
| 2.06  | _____ omnipresent    | f. worshiping according to a set form                           |
| 2.07  | _____ idolatry       | g. existing in three persons                                    |
| 2.08  | _____ worship        | h. knowing all things   |
| 2.09  | _____ omnipotence    | i. everywhere present at all times                              |
| 2.010 | _____ triune         | j. worship place requiring at least ten people                  |
|       |                      | k. having unlimited power                                       |

**Write true or false** (each answer, 2 points).

- 2.011 \_\_\_\_\_ The heart of man refers to the whole person—spirit, soul, and body.
- 2.012 \_\_\_\_\_ The Godhead refers to the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2.013 \_\_\_\_\_ It is proper for New Testament believers to gather in a particular place for worship, but they do not have to be in a particular place.
- 2.014 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Old Testament, pronouns referring to God were always singular (he, his, etc.).
- 2.015 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus told the woman of Samaria that the temple would be torn down.
- 2.016 \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament worship focused on ceremony and sacrifice.
- 2.017 \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament worship focuses on buildings.
- 2.018 \_\_\_\_\_ Healthy collective worship depends on healthy worship in private.
- 2.019 \_\_\_\_\_ Desiring spectacular gifts for personal glory is a hindrance to worship.
- 2.020 \_\_\_\_\_ Giving is an important part of New Testament worship.
- 2.021 \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer without humility is not worship.

**Fill in the blanks** (each answer, 3 points).

- 2.022 Two activities included in personal worship are a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.023 Two extremes on either side of orderly worship are a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.024 List five requirements for collective worship:
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ |          |

- 2.025 Spiritual gifts which are especially important for collective worship are those which instruct people in \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.026 The most sacred piece of furniture in the temple was the a. \_\_\_\_\_, which held the b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.027 Devoting oneself to houses, cars, music, or money is a form of \_\_\_\_\_

**Match these items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |       |                        |  |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| 2.028 | _____ Solomon          | a. built the temple where God's glory was visible                                  |
| 2.029 | _____ Samaritan woman  | b. wife of Baal  |
| 2.030 | _____ Baal             | c. false god the Israelites were worshiping while Moses was on a mountain with God |
| 2.031 | _____ Molech           | d. god to whom babies were offered by fire   |
| 2.032 | _____ Ashtoreth        | e. called fire down on false prophets  |
| 2.033 | _____ golden calf      | f. heard Jesus describe changes in worship   |
| 2.034 | _____ the Apostle Paul | g. instructed the Corinthians about worship  |
|       |                        | h. god which the Israelites often worshiped  |

**Complete this activity** (this item, 5 points).

- 2.035 Write the first of the Ten Commandments. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

80

100



### III. EXAMPLES OF WORSHIP

In Section II you read an example of Old Testament worship—the dedication of Solomon’s temple. In this section, you will study examples of New Testament worship—first, from the early church, and

then, from the sixteenth century. By observing how Christians have worshiped in other times and under different circumstances, you will understand more clearly how we ought to worship God today.

#### SECTION OBJECTIVES

- ★ **Study these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able:
10. To list and describe several kinds of worship services common in the early church.
  11. To describe the worship service in which the Anabaptists decided to form a Scriptural brotherhood.
  12. To tell how persecution affected the worship of the Anabaptists.

#### VOCABULARY

- ★ **Learn the meaning of these words.** Knowing the meaning of these words will help you understand this section and enable you to use these words correctly.

**guild** (gild). An organization of workers or craftsmen; also, the hall in which they hold their meetings.

**predicted** (pri dik’ təd). Spoken in advance; foretold.

**receptive** (ri sep’ tiv). Open to receiving; especially eager to hear.

**ritual** (rich’ ə wəl). A formal ceremony.



#### THE EARLY CHURCH

In the early church, some meetings were planned ahead of time and some were not. When the church met together for worship or prayer, fellowship was wonderful. God gave special signs of His presence. New believers were taught the truth about Jesus and the New Covenant. Sometimes, however, only a few believers might turn a public meeting into a preaching service. They did this when the Holy Spirit told them to. At these meetings, unbelievers often were converted, sometimes in large numbers.

**Special sermons.** Peter and John, two disciples of Jesus, were walking into the temple one day when a cripple asked them for a gift of money. Now the two disciples had been experiencing great blessings in fellowship, prayer, and Bible study with the other

believers in Jesus. They were, in fact, so full of joy at what God had done through Jesus that they constantly were looking for opportunities to tell people the purpose and meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

So when the cripple asked for money, Peter immediately saw an opportunity. Jesus had given His disciples special power to heal and perform miracles in His name to confirm the story of salvation. Peter reached out his hand and grasped the hand of the cripple.

“I have no money for you,” he said. “But what I do have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk.”

The crippled man was immediately healed, and he began walking, even leaping in the air, and all the

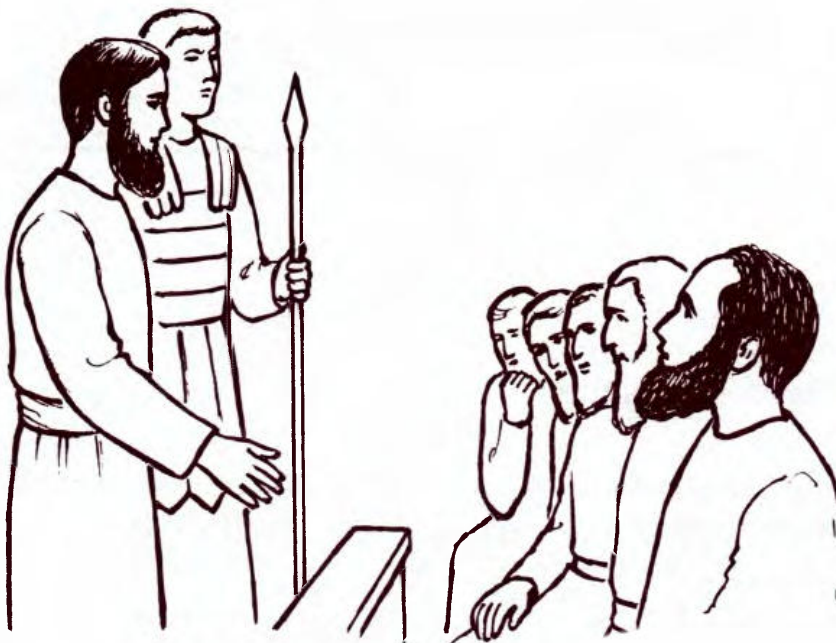
while praising God for the healing he had received in Jesus' name.

Peter and John, meanwhile, began to preach about Jesus. They told the listeners they needed to repent and be saved through Jesus—the One who had healed the cripple. The response of the people was tremendous. Five thousand men repented of their sin and were baptized into the young church.

The Jewish leaders, unfortunately, did not like the focus on Jesus. Jesus seemed to threaten the pride and showiness they had in their positions as leaders of the Old Testament worship and service. They wanted to keep the old ceremonies. They did not want to admit they had need of someone to save

them from their sin. Instead of rejoicing in what God had done through Peter and John, they put the two disciples in prison overnight and brought them the next day before the Jewish court.

As questions and accusations were thrown at the two disciples, Peter again saw an opportunity. Here were the very ones who had demanded Jesus' death—the Jewish leaders. Yet Jesus had died for them. Peter sensed the Holy Spirit telling him to preach. He stood up and told the leaders frankly that Jesus had healed the cripple—the very Jesus whom they had crucified scarcely two months earlier! He boldly warned them that by rejecting Jesus, they were rejecting the One whom God had exalted.



**Peter testifying before the Jewish court**

Such boldness amazed and rather alarmed the Jewish leaders. It reminded them very much of Jesus. Much as they didn't want to, they had to admit a miracle had been done in Jesus' name. Even so, they demanded Peter and John not to

speaking any more about Jesus.

Peter said that would be impossible. They had to obey God.

So after threatening them severely, the Jewish leaders let them go.



**Write true or false.**

- 3.1 \_\_\_\_\_ The crippled man asked Peter and John for healing.
- 3.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Peter always prepared his sermons ahead of time.
- 3.3 \_\_\_\_\_ The Jewish leaders had trouble accepting the message of salvation through Jesus because they couldn't understand it.

- 3.4 \_\_\_\_\_ As a result of the healed man's testimony and Peter's sermon, 5,000 people were saved.
- 3.5 \_\_\_\_\_ In Peter's second sermon, he told the Jewish leaders he had healed the cripple himself.
- 3.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Peter's boldness reminded the Jews of Jesus.
- 3.7 \_\_\_\_\_ After being threatened, Peter and John agreed not to preach in public places.
- 3.8 \_\_\_\_\_ The miracles which the disciples could do in Jesus' name were special signs to confirm the story of salvation through Jesus.



**Choose the best answer.**

- 3.9 The leaping and praising of the healed man could best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. an understandable and fitting response from one who had never walked before  
b. an indecent way to give God thanks  
c. a sign that people should leap in worship services  
d. something the disciples had said should not be done
- 



**Read Acts 4:23-35.**

**A prayer meeting.** Peter and John were relieved to be set free by the Jewish leaders. They might have been killed. Not that they were unwilling to suffer for Jesus. In fact, they had special joy in their hearts because the leaders had taken notice that they were like Jesus. They wanted to remind everyone of Jesus. Gladly would they suffer, even die, for Him. Still, it was a blessing to be able to go back to the church.

On this particular occasion, the church had gathered in a Christian's home for fellowship and prayer. Many of the new believers were there. When Peter and John arrived, all were eager to hear what had happened to them. So Peter and John began to testify how Jesus had been with them, how the rulers had opposed and threatened them, and how the Holy Spirit had prompted Peter to preach to the Jewish leaders.

After the disciples gave their report, the believers praised God and repeated part of Psalm 2, realizing God's sovereignty over His

enemies. They asked God for boldness to witness for Christ. They also asked God to perform signs and wonders to validate their testimony.

So earnestly they prayed, and so unitedly, that suddenly the whole group began to feel the presence of the Lord. Each believer felt a great trembling in his heart. Even the floor and walls of the house shook as the Christians worshiped the Lord on their knees. In a few moments, the believers rose from their knees. The place was no longer shaking, but in every heart there was a special closeness to the Lord. They were all full of the Holy Spirit. He gave them such joy and love for Jesus that they could not contain themselves. The Holy Spirit moved them to begin talking and encouraging one another in the truths which He showed them. There was no light-hearted visiting about crops and weather and relatives. All spoke boldly, seriously, and yet joyfully to one another about the Lord and the wonderful things He was doing among them.



### Complete these activities.

- 3.10 Write W beside each item which was included in the early church's worship; write X beside each item which was not included.
- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. ____ joy           | f. ____ singing                 |
| b. ____ hand-clapping | g. ____ testimonies             |
| c. ____ united prayer | h. ____ lighthearted visiting   |
| d. ____ preaching     | i. ____ Bible reading           |
| e. ____ a silent play | j. ____ encouraging one another |
- 3.11 Which sentence best describes the disciples' attitude toward suffering? \_\_\_\_
- They enjoyed any kind of suffering.
  - They avoided testifying if it made people angry enough to harm them.
  - They warned those who made them suffer that they would someday pay for it.
  - They were thankful when God delivered them from suffering, but also found joy when they could suffer for Jesus' sake.
- 3.12 Tell what the believers asked God for in this prayer meeting. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.13 Tell a number of things the believers felt at this prayer meeting. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.14 Read Acts 20:7-12 and answer these questions.
- On what day was this worship service? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who preached? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Why did Eutychus fall out of a third-story window? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who revived the young man? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How long did Paul speak to the believers? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.15 According to the various accounts of worship in the early church which you have studied, which sentence is most accurate? \_\_\_\_
- Worship services could begin at any time, but usually concluded at midnight.
  - Worship services began and concluded according to a schedule worked out by the apostles.
  - The early church had worship only on Sunday morning.
  - At least some worship services did not have a specific starting or stopping time.
- 3.16 The disciples' understanding of *church* went far beyond a building or even a worship meeting. To them the church was the body of believers. They saw themselves as members joined to each other so that under the direction of Jesus, the Head, they supported each other in every way they could. How does Acts 4:34, 35 show this?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ANABAPTISTS

**The beginning.** On the evening of January 21, 1525, a solemn group of sixteen men met in the home of Felix Manz for prayer and Bible study. For a number of years these men had been studying the New Testament. Roman Catholicism was the state church. Some of these men were priests and monks in the Catholic Church. But in their studies, they had come to see that many things in the Catholic Church were wrong. People were baptized as babies and then as long as they paid money to the church, they could live in sin pretty well as they pleased. Even some priests drank, gambled, and committed immorality.

These men had been studying with a reformer named Ulrich Zwingli. This reformer was trying to change the church in Zurich, Switzerland, to be more Scriptural. But the town council did not allow too many changes, and so Zwingli tried to please the council. He still wanted to keep the church and state together. That is, he wanted church leaders, including himself, to be in charge of government. This, too, the group of Bible-believing men were coming to see was wrong. Jesus had taught His followers not to use force.

So on this January evening, the group knew that if they wanted to be a Scriptural church, they must begin to do things differently. They also knew the state church was powerful. If they began to do exactly as the Bible said, they would be persecuted. In fact, this very day a law had been passed forbidding them to have any more private Bible studies. But they had committed themselves to Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, and they wanted a church which honored Him according to the Bible. They longed for a brotherhood as they had been reading about in the Book of Acts.

They began again to talk about the Bible, about Jesus, and about how those who believed on Him with all their heart should be baptized into the church. They knew they had not been baptized as believers. They had all been baptized as babies when they knew nothing about Jesus. In their hearts was a certain amount of fear. To start a church according to the New Testament would be dangerous. But the fear of God was upon them too. If they did not follow the Bible, how could they answer to God?

They knelt and prayed fervently.

After they had prayed, a man named George Blaurock stood up. He looked straight at Conrad Grebel, a man who had led many of the discussions. In a clear voice, he said, "I beg of you to baptize me with the true Christian baptism upon my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour." He then knelt down in front of Conrad.

Conrad called for water to be brought, and he baptized George Blaurock. When Blaurock rose from his knees, the others immediately asked him to baptize them. He did so.



### Baptism of George Blaurock by Conrad Grebel

Each believer that night was baptized. The men were sober and yet the joy and relief of finally taking the step into the true Christian church was upon them. The meeting was charged with the presence of God.

When the meeting was over, the group had ordained Conrad Grebel, George Blaurock, and Felix Manz, to be leaders in the church. These men were charged to preach the Gospel and to give oversight to the brotherhood into which they had entered that evening in the name of Jesus.





### Fill in the blanks.

- 3.17 Some of the men who met were a \_\_\_\_\_ and b \_\_\_\_\_ in the Catholic Church.
- 3.18 The date of this important meeting was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.19 The reformer who professed to want to establish a Scriptural church but who followed the city council's wishes was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.20 A law had been passed forbidding these men to have private \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.21 The first man to be baptized as a believer in this meeting was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.22 The man who baptized him was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.23 This worship service took place in the home of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.24 Besides being baptized, Conrad Grebel, George Blaurock, and Felix Manz were \_\_\_\_\_ in this meeting.
- 3.25 This meeting took place in the town of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 

**An open air meeting.** Just as they had expected, the newly baptized believers were persecuted. The leaders especially were opposed

Rejected in Zurich, Conrad Grebel moved on to other cities, preaching the true Gospel of repentance, faith, and believer's baptism. Some city leaders were more open to him than others. In some cities he was invited to preach in the city church, and at other times he had to meet secretly with believers in their homes or in the fields or forests.

In the city of St. Gallen, Grebel found people very **receptive** to the Gospel. The large weaver's **guild** where he preached was packed with people. His call to repentance and a new life began to have a powerful effect.

The people of St. Gallen had an annual tradition on Palm Sunday. They would pull through the streets a wooden statue of Christ riding on a donkey. The Catholics had loved **rituals**. But in 1525, they had a different event. A great crowd of worshipers on this Sunday morning walked through the city toward the Sitter River. Conrad Grebel led the way. Once they arrived at the river, Grebel led believers one by one to the water's edge where he baptized them upon their confession of faith in Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. This was a joyous and sacred moment. It seemed that the Gospel surely was spreading by the Lord's blessing and direction.

And it was. But the rulers of Zurich were not about to let the Anabaptists (rebaptizers) have such success. At various times the leaders were imprisoned.

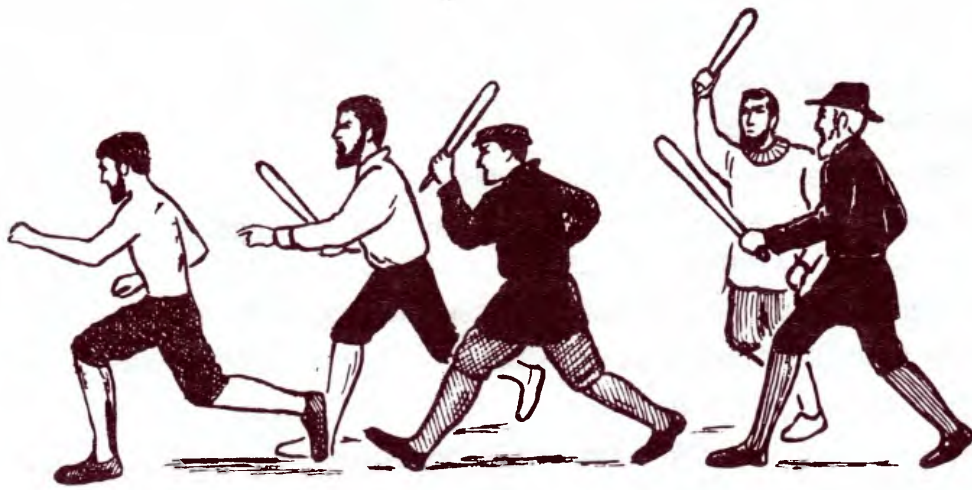
Grebel, Blaurock, and Manz spent the winter of 1526 in the New Tower, a damp, cold prison in the Zurich city wall. For Conrad Grebel especially, this was a hard winter. He suffered from a severe arthritis condition. In March, the three leaders were sentenced with nine other men and six women to stay in prison and be given only bread and water until they died.

But only two weeks later, someone left a window open in the tower, and the prisoners escaped. Likely the window was purposely opened, for the Anabaptists had many sympathizers, even among the officials.

Within a few months, Conrad Grebel, weakened by the severe winter, contacted the plague and died. A few months later, in the late fall of 1526, George Blaurock and Felix Manz were arrested. In January of 1527, Felix Manz was taken to the Limmat River. His hands and feet were tied. His arms were placed around his bent knees. A stick was pushed through under his knees so that he could not bring his arms up, and he was thrown into the river to drown.

At the same time, George Blaurock was stripped to the waist and chased down a long street to the city gate while being beaten with rods until the blood ran. Then he was expelled from Zurich. Two and a half years later, he was burned at the stake for his faith.

The severe persecution in Switzerland took hundreds of lives. It forced the believers to meet in secret for worship. They met in basements, in forests, even in caves. Sometimes for fear of being



**George Blaurock being chased and beaten**

heard, they quietly mouthed the words of their songs, rather than singing them aloud. So precious was the death and suffering of Jesus to them that at times they observed the Lord's Supper daily. The believers were burned, beheaded, drowned, and tortured in unbelievable ways. Many congregations of the Swiss Brethren were simply

wiped out. But to the north, in Germany and the Netherlands, and to the east in Moravia, Anabaptism sprang up and spread. Today the Mennonites, the Amish, the Hutterites, and the Brethren people are the offspring of these early Anabaptists, who took their stand for truth.



**Choose the best answer.**

- 3.26 Conrad Grebel found a receptive audience in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Zurich                                      b. St. Gallen                                      c. Limmat
- 3.27 The special open air meeting on Palm Sunday was for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. communion                                      b. ordination                                      c. baptism
- 3.28 The name *Anabaptist* meant \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Mennonite                                      b. water baptizer                                      c. rebaptizer
- 3.29 Prison life for Conrad Grebel was especially severe because he suffered from \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. arthritis                                      b. tuberculosis                                      c. cancer
- 3.30 The three leaders with their friends escaped from prison through \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. a tunnel                                      b. an open window                                      c. an open door
- 3.31 The leader who was beaten and expelled from Zurich was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Conrad Grebel                                      b. George Blaurock                                      c. Felix Manz



**Complete these activities.**

- 3.32 Tell how each of the following leaders died.  
 a. Conrad Grebel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. George Blaurock: \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Felix Manz: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3.33
- List four present-day groups who came from the early Anabaptists.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.34
- List at least three ways in which the worship meetings of the early Anabaptists were different from the worship you are accustomed to.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.35
- The *Martyrs Mirror* is a collection of accounts telling how Christians have suffered and died through the centuries. The Second Part tells especially how the Anabaptists suffered. If you have access to this book, find an account of someone's death not mentioned in this LightUnit. (Note pages 413 and following.) With the direction of your teacher, prepare a report to give to your class. (Other books that have similar accounts are *Coals of Fire*, *In a Whale's Belly*, and *The Three-Legged Stool*.)



**Review what you have read and done.** Do you understand the material you have completed and know the objectives and vocabulary? This final Self Check will show if you are ready for the LIGHTUNIT test.



### SELF CHECK 3

**Match these attributes of God with the proper definition** (each answer, 2 points).

- |      |                   |  |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 3.01 | _____ omnipotent  | a. being present everywhere at all times   |
| 3.02 | _____ omniscient  | b. completely righteous and true           |
| 3.03 | _____ omnipresent | c. sacrificing to meet the needs of others |
| 3.04 | _____ holy        | d. knowing all things                      |
| 3.05 | _____ triune      | e. existing in three persons               |
|      |                   | f. having unlimited power                  |

**Fill in the blanks** (each answer, 3 points).

- 3.06
- The problem of replacing God and giving one's reverence, praise, and devotion to something or someone other than God is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.07
- To confirm the story of salvation, God gave the apostles power to perform \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.08
- The physical problem of the man whom Peter and John healed was that he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.09
- The boldness of Peter and John reminded the Jews of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.010
- After Peter and John were released, they went to a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.
- 3.011
- The presence of God in the meeting was so powerful that the building \_\_\_\_\_.



- 3.012 When Peter preached in the temple, \_\_\_\_\_ people repented and were baptized.
- 3.013 The date of the meeting in which 16 men left the Catholic Church and entered the true brotherhood of Jesus Christ by baptism was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.014 Swiss Anabaptism began in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, Switzerland
- 3.015 A special baptismal service was held on \_\_\_\_\_ in St. Gallen.

**Choose the best answer** (each answer, 2 points).

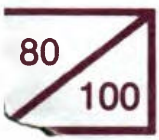
- 3.016 When Peter and John were called before the Jewish court, Peter saw an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. escape c. preach  
 b. get even d. describe miracles he had done
- 3.017 The healed man showed his joy by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. leaping and praising God c. shouting in every worship service  
 b. giving away his money d. helping Peter and John escape
- 3.018 The New Testament understanding of the church was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. a body of believers c. any meeting  
 b. any building d. none of the above
- 3.019 Because of the severe persecution, the early Anabaptists met for worship in all of the following except \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. caves c. basements  
 b. forests d. church buildings
- 3.020 Each of the following groups can trace their roots to the Anabaptists except \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Lutherans c. Amish and Mennonites  
 b. Brethren d. Hutterites
- 3.021 Because the sufferings of Jesus meant so much to the early Anabaptists, at times they practiced communion \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. daily c. monthly  
 b. weekly d. yearly
- 3.022 Each of the following is important for personal worship except \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. prayer c. Bible reading  
 b. preaching d. humility and obedience
- 3.023 The more important spiritual gifts are those which \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. astonish unbelievers c. heal people  
 b. instruct people in the truth d. make everyone feel good
- 3.024 Baal, Ashtoreth, and Molech were \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. reformers c. Old Testament leaders  
 b. New Testament believers d. false gods
- 3.025 People have trouble with idolatry because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. they love each other too much to love God  
 b. they cannot understand God  
 c. when they are sinful, they can still worship, but they do not want to acknowledge God  
 d. once people sin, God will not let them repent and worship Him

**Write the name of the person described.** Some names are used more than once (each answer, 3 points)

- 3.026 \_\_\_\_\_ baptized George Blaurock
- 3.027 \_\_\_\_\_ suffered from arthritis and died of the plague
- 3.028 \_\_\_\_\_ warned the Jewish leaders not to reject Jesus
- 3.029 \_\_\_\_\_ preached all night
- 3.030 \_\_\_\_\_ was beaten with rods until the blood flowed, then was expelled
- 3.031 \_\_\_\_\_ was drowned in the Limmat River
- 3.032 \_\_\_\_\_ housed the meeting where Anabaptists formed a true brotherhood
- 3.033 \_\_\_\_\_ asked Conrad Grebel to give him a true Christian baptism
- 3.034 \_\_\_\_\_ was burned at the stake for his faith
- 3.035 \_\_\_\_\_ led a large group of believers through the city streets to the river for baptism

**Complete these activities** (each numbered item, 5 points).

- 3.036 List five requirements for collective worship.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.037 Write the first of the Ten Commandments. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**CLP**

## CONTROLS

### Teacher Control

Date issued \_\_\_\_\_

Activity completed \_\_\_\_\_

Test score \_\_\_\_\_

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Self-Control

No. of pages in Lightunit \_\_\_\_\_

Days to complete Lightunit \_\_\_\_\_

Pages per day \_\_\_\_\_

Target test date \_\_\_\_\_

Bible 701 500701

