

Introductory Lesson

The Service



Hello! Welcome! Often someone can be converted, go to “church”, take part in the “Services”, and yet never stop to ask themselves why they are doing so or what the word “service” really means.

This Lesson is to be studied during the Introductory Group Meeting.
The Group Leader will check the answers.

1. Read the following phrases and work out the meaning of the word “service” in each case.
 - a) “What a nice looking dinner service!”

 - b) “I’m taking my car for its regular service.”

 - c) “The bus service is very poor.”

 - d) “Service with a smile!”

 - e) “Hurry up, Sheila, or we’ll be late for the Service!”

2. The New Testament was not written in Latin but in Greek, and of the sixteen times the word “service” appears in the New Testament of the Authorized Version, the six principal uses are a translation of the Greek noun “latreia” or verb “latreuo”.

Read the list of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21.

Which is the word in this list which means “give service” (latreia) to idols?

Note: Memorizing the word ‘idolatry’ should help you to remember the Greek word “latreia”; it also shows it is not only possible to serve the true God but, sadly, idols or false gods as well.

3. The Greek word “latreia” has a far deeper meaning than our word “service”, which now, for many people, simply means a religious meeting.

It has its origin in the kind of service which was expected from servants or slaves in ancient times, that which gave absolute obedience and respect.

In the Bible the word “latreia” sometimes indicates the **service** which we should offer to God in:

CHURCH MEETINGS

More frequently, however, it highlights the service which we should offer to God:

ALL THE TIME

In each of the following verses the word “latreia” is translated by the words “**worship**”, “**service**” or “**serve**” in the NIV. Each student should now write:

“**A**” beside those which most emphasize the **service** which should be offered to God **all the time**.

“**M**” beside those which most emphasize the **service** which is offered to God in the meeting of the congregation.

“**B**” when it seems to you that **both** senses are meant.

- a) _____ Luke 1:74,75
- b) _____ Luke 2:37
- c) _____ Luke 4:8
- d) _____ Acts 24:14
- e) _____ Romans 1:9
- f) _____ Romans 9:4
- g) _____ Romans 12:1
- h) _____ Hebrews 9:1,9

4. So for the Christian, service (latreia) always implies **servicing** our God. We can use the word **service** to describe the times when the church meets to worship God, provided we don't fall into the error of thinking that this "service" is limited to the meeting and that **service** ends when the meeting ends.

Bearing these points in mind, what lessons can we draw, as an application, regarding the way in which we should act:

a) **before** the meeting (service)? _____

b) **during** the meeting (service)? _____

c) **after** the meeting (service)? _____

Discuss each of these, remembering that this short course has as its aim to help you to achieve this quality of worship service.

5. Reflecting on the conclusions we have arrived at so far, which of the three services pictured on page 11 is the one that will please God, and why? Picture _____

6. For a service to be spiritually alive, and yet ordered, as in Picture B on page 11, it is necessary that throughout the previous week the congregation be actively engaged in dedicated service to the Lord, and that in the meeting, this service should be a reflection of the daily life of every member of the congregation. But it's also necessary for the leader to do something!

What, exactly? Notice on page 11 what our teacher has to do (as indicated in the circle) if he is to lead the kind of Service shown in Picture "B".

7. During this "preparation stage" of using the Word of God and guided by the Holy Spirit, the leader must prepare two things:

- him/herself.
- the "Order of Service".

In what order should these steps be undertaken, and why?



8. Preparing yourself involves: self-examination (of your actions, attitudes, words and thoughts), devotion, confession, and a seeking of the Lord’s anointing; also it means talking with the Lord about every detail of the service, until your heart is aflame with a love that cannot be contained and you feel compelled to share it with others.

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. SERVE the LORD with gladness, come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100.

- a) What is the psalmist asking the people to do? _____

- b) Whom is he exhorting to do this? _____
- c) Why? _____
9. But once we have prepared ourselves, it is also necessary to prepare the “Order of Service” so we can avoid either of the two extremes to be seen in Pictures A and C on page 11. What are these two extremes and their possible causes?

In Picture “A”?

- a) The extreme: _____
- b) The cause: _____

In Picture “C”?

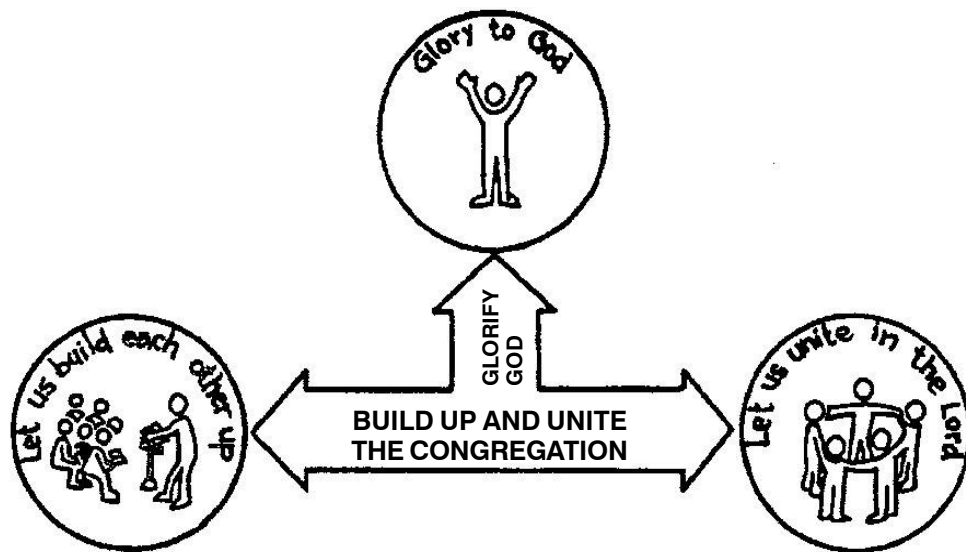
- a) The extreme: _____
- b) The cause: _____

10. The Aims of a Christian Worship Service

In your preparation, you must always bear in mind the threefold aim of every church service as illustrated in the diagram on page 9. The first of these aims is shown on the vertical (up and down) arrow and the other two are shown on the horizontal (across) arrows. Respectively they stand for the God-ward and the man-ward aspects of our service.

Which of these three aspects of Christian worship is taught in:

- a) Ephesians 5:19? _____
- b) 1 Corinthians 14:26? _____
- c) Romans 15:6? _____



11. Let us pause for a moment to review what we have studied.

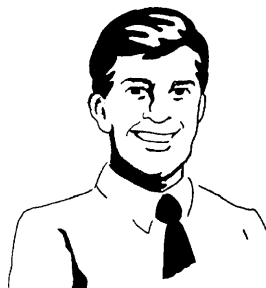
The word “service” in the Bible is often a translation of the Greek word

a) _____. In the New Testament this word sometimes refers to the service we should give to God at b) a _____ t _____ and sometimes to the service we give to God during a church c) m _____.

The threefold aim of every church Service is:

to d) g _____ God, to e) b _____ and f) u _____ the congregation.

There are two extremes which should at all costs be avoided in every church Service: Paul corrects the first in 1 Cor.14:40 when he says everything should be done in a fitting and g) _____ way, thus avoiding the extreme of h) dis _____; the second is the exact opposite extreme, of i) _____. To avoid these two extremes it is essential that the church itself should be spiritually alive, but it is also necessary that the leader of the church Service should first prepare j) h _____, and then prepare carefully and prayerfully the k) O _____ of S _____.



When you get home, do the Test on this Introductory Lesson as review. You will find this Test on page 63 at the back of this Study Book.