

Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15) *Is All of Life Worship?*

Answer the following false positions:

1. "Paul tells us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). ¹If prayer is worship, and if we are to pray without ceasing, then we are to worship in some sense without ceasing. It will not do for us to think that we cannot obey what Paul plainly tells us to do. If prayer is worship and we should pray unceasingly, then we should continuously worship. We must not turn unbeliever and say, "O well, we cannot always be praying and so the Bible does not mean what it says." We should, instead, ²consider what unceasing prayer may mean. Phil. 4:6 says, "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." ³There is a prayer that is not supplication, thanksgiving, nor requests. Could this kind of prayer be the devotion of heart fully consecrated to the Creator? Is it possible this is what is involved in praying without ceasing?

We may not always go about speaking or thinking words in sending to the Everlasting Throne conscious expressions of honor, thanks, and requests, but it is possible for us to live our lives with God, the judgment, and eternity always in mind. ⁴That may be the praying without ceasing. If it is, then our worship ought to be unintermittent – unailing" (Buster Dobbs; *Is All Of Life Worship*; Contending For The Faith; December 1998; page 7).

2. "And we in this life, in this world, give ourselves completely and totally in His service. In the opening verse of the twelfth chapter of the book of Romans Paul says: "I beseech you by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Him, that's your reasonable service." So he tells us that we are to lay our very souls upon the altar of this present existence, that we are to give all that we have, our hearts, our strength, our mind, to the service of the Lord. And that is a total commitment. ⁵Sometimes people think of that as service, and sometimes they think of it as worship. But the commitment has got to be total.

⁶We, of course sometimes do wrong things and that's not worship. The Bible tells us in the book of First John that if we say we have no sin then we're a liar and the truth is not in us. And furthermore, we make God a liar and His word's not in us. And that's in the first chapter, verses six through ten. Now I don't care who you are or how hard you try, sooner or later, there is going to be some failure. You need to get that right. ⁷And the sin that we do, we all do sin, I do and you do as well - the sin we do is certainly not worship, is it? And so that would be something in life that's not worship. And yet, the main tendency of our life must be toward God. ⁸And so we live our life with a reverence to God and we live all of our days with the thought of the judgment before us and the knowledge that God sees us and knows every particular of our life. And that our purpose in this life is to make a complete commitment. And when we're doing that - that's worship. And that's what God expects us to do and that's what He wants us to do" (Buster Dobbs; Audio Transcript from a sermon; Sunday July 5, 1998; Fleetwood church of Christ in Houston, TX).

1. Worship is something that requires the truth and the right spirit (**John 4:23-24**). Prayer requires the right understanding (**I Corinthians 14:15**). Prayer requires a right relationship with God (**Proverbs 15:8; 29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:15-18, and I Peter 3:12**). Prayer is worship because there is always to be reverence in prayer (**Luke 18:9-14**) and we see prayer done in worship to God (**Isaiah 56:7 and I Corinthians 11:23-26**).

- Praying without ceasing is in reference to a continual practice (**Luke 21:36, Acts 6:4, and Colossians 4:2**), not a prayer without ending (**Luke 11:1**).
- If worship never ceased, tell me how one could “go to worship” (**I Samuel 1:3, Zechariah 14:16, and Acts 8:27**)? Certainly, one can understand that brethren come together to worship wherein rules abide that do not apply at other times (cf. **I Corinthians 14:34-35**).

2. Whenever one begins to teach what something “may mean”, he has admitted that he is teaching something he cannot prove. This is wrong (**I Thessalonians 5:21 and Titus 2:1**; cf. **Proverbs 30:5-6**).

3. **Philippians 4:6** lists “prayer”, “supplication”, and “thanksgiving”. Let’s see what these terms mean in this passage:

- Prayer: “a place set apart or suited for the offering of prayer” (Thayer’s Greek – English Lexicon of the New Testament; page 545; Strong’s # 4335). See: **Matthew 21:13 and Ephesians 6:18**.
- Supplication: “a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty to God or to man [God is specified in the verse – B.A.Y.]” (Thayer’s Greek – English Lexicon of the New Testament; page 126; Strong’s # 1162). See: **Acts 1:14 and I Timothy 5:5**.
- Thanksgiving: “the giving of thanks” (Thayer’s Greek – English Lexicon of the New Testament; page 264; Strong’s # 2169). See: **I Timothy 4:3-4**
- Isn’t it clear that prayer is a general term that, contrary to Dobb’s doctrine, is not continual and even requires somewhere one could offer a prayer? Then you have prayers that are supplications (**John 17**) and thanksgivings (**Matthew 15:36**). Either way, our requests [petitions] are to be made known to God. This leaves no possibility of separating prayer from different things done in a prayer.

4. We always do need to have the Lord on our minds (**II Corinthians 10:5**). Still yet, while He is on our minds, we are not always worshipping even when we are doing the right things (**Acts 24:11**; cf. **I Corinthians 7:2-4**).

5. Dobb’s position hinges on the idea that there is no distinction between service and worship. Again, he’s wrong (**Deuteronomy 4:19; 8:19; 17:3, I Kings 9:6, Jeremiah 25:6, and Matthew 4:10**).

6. Ah, a contradiction. If all of life is worship and you sin, wouldn’t that then just be false or erring worship? When one worships wrong, God’s says it’s still worship, but in error (**Mark 7:7-9, Acts 17:23, and Colossians 2:20-23**).

7. This is a whole new subject, but we should never have the idea of “we all sin” (**Romans 6:1-2**, **I Peter 1:15-16**, and **I John 3:8-10**). Isn’t Dobbs here confessing that he has never ceased from sin (**I Peter 4:1**)?

8. You cannot go through an ordinary day and have reverence in every thought. There is no way you can properly revere God while sleeping, driving in heavy traffic, using the toilet, etc. Having a mind towards reverence requires thought and the right atmospheres. His doctrine demotes worship to just a casual state of being with God on your mind.

- Consider the Lord’s Supper as evidence (**I Corinthians 11:23ff.**). Could you remember the death of Christ while driving in El Paso on Interstate 10 at 5:00 PM?
- Is committing to God considered worship? No, but it does take commitment to worship God (**John 9:31**; cf. **Luke 4:8**).