

Homage

Homage is in some ways, similar to the word *worship*. However the use of the word *homage* today is very different from the word *worship*. Thus it is important to understand this word's meaning.

The French word *homme* means *man* and this is where the term *homage* came from. It describes a ritual which took place many years ago, when kings ruled over nations. Feudal lords owned large estates and submitted their wealth and power to serving the king. On these feudal estates, peasants lived and worked for the feudal lords and were called *vassals*.

To become a *vassal*, a peasant would present himself before the feudal lord of that region, and pay *homage* to the lord. By doing this, the peasant would place himself under the protection and authority of the lord of those lands. From that day the peasant, now a *vassal* of the lord, was responsible to fully obey all that his lord required of him. In turn, he received protection, care, and a place to live, within the estate of his lord.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we by faith own his "Lordship" in our lives. In Romans 10:9 we read: "*if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus (or 'Jesus as Lord'), thou shalt be saved*". This is paying true homage as worship by faith to our wonderful Lord Jesus. We own Him as our "Lord" with full rights to be the One and only authority in our lives, and He grants us eternal life, blessing and joy, as those who belong to Him.

There is, however, an important difference between "homage" and "worship". *Homage* is paid to another who has some right of power and authority over me. I pay *homage* by respecting and honoring that individual. In the world homage is often and rightly paid to men in places of authority and dignity. But we as Christians are never to worship a man.

We *worship* God alone. This is one way we show reverence for *Who He* is. We are commanded not to worship any other being than our God. The Lord Jesus fully defeated Satan when the wicked one tried to get our Lord Jesus to worship himself. The Lord told Satan: "*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt **worship** the Lord thy God, and **him only** shalt thou serve*" (Luke 4:8).