

GOODNEWS LETTER

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WORSHIP

(Like A Dog)

"I've been working like a dog," he said. Everyone knew that his day had been long and hard. "Dog-tired" is one reference that expresses what kind of day we had. We refer to dogs a lot to express how we feel or, what others think about us - most of the terms are less than flattering.

Then, dogs are used for teaching us spiritual truths. Just before Israel was to leave their bondage of Egypt, Moses stated, "...there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt...But against any of the sons of Israel a **dog** shall not even bark..." Exodus 11:6a & 7. In other words, a peaceful and quiet deliverance was given to Israel in departing the land.

Goliath the dog-term in scorning David. "Am I a dog that thou cometh to me with staves, (staff)" 1st Samuel 17:43. (Border Collies were not developed at this time) The giant then began to cuss the God of Israel, causing David to get madder than a hen. Whoops! Wrong species. From here on out, I'll stick to canine references, only.

No! Actually, I want to write about **WORSHIP**. Further, I want to show that our obeisance should mimic that of a **dog**; that is, with all our heart, mind and soul. You know, like we are commanded in the **Decalogue**.

Thayer's Greek English Lexicon informs us that worship (Gk.-proskuneo) has the idea of falling down to the ground; to kiss the hand of another. Or, as I was taught: 'Worship is like a dog that licks the hand of the master with total reverence.'

Dogs do have disdainful habits. Dogs return to their own vomit; a reason that dogs are bad examples. Also, Dogs are used to warn the about evil workers. In chpt. 3, V2 of Philippians, Paul ties dogs to other practices that are unspiritual; of Jewish circumcision and pagan mutilation.

So, **dogs** have gotten bad press over time. (Again, Border Collies were not around) But, Dogs can be beneficial, too. **Wikipedia** reports that "some modern commentators have pointed out that dogs' saliva ... contains lysozyme (an enzyme with antibacterial qualities)." The **worshipping-like** effect of the dogs of Luke 16 could have aided in healing the sores on the body of Lazarus. So, there you go.

And, to carry our **dog theme** a bit further, what if someone came to you and said, "**I have dog faith.?**" Unless you knew of the Canaanite woman of Matthew 15:21-28, you might be confused. Perhaps you are, right now! So, let me explain.

When Jesus said to the woman that "**It is not good to take the children's bread and cast throw it to the dogs**" (V26), she replied, "**Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters tables**" (V28).

Therefore, when one refers to having **dog-faith**; to me, it means that he'll serve anyway, anyhow, worshipping the LORD all the time, without ever complaining. Man O man! I'd love a church full of members with **dog-faith**.

Revelation 22 finishes our article. Here, **dogs** are used metaphorically. The message is clear, however. The Lord expects worshippers to refrain from natural tendencies that are fleshly and animalistic; or, they shall not be allowed to enter the city and enjoy the "**fruit of the tree of life,**" Revelation 22:14.

Worshippers - those with **dog-like faith**, obey the Lord and follow His teachings, no matter what comes their way. Worshippers come when called. They can't help it, they are controlled by the Holy Spirit leash that surrounds their hearts. They love what it taught, who shows up and, they are always speaking of the time spent in worship as being; "**Heavenly.**"

Indeed! Worshippers that make up the church body of Jesus know that they must receive His love, daily, to be obedient. They "**sit**" and "**stay**," until their hearts are cleansed daily by "**the washing of the word**" (Eph. 5:26). To follow their Master is the only worship they know!