

ATTENTION!!

Worship

“Let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power.” Revelation 4:11

Visiting Needs

Jesus Said...*“I was sick, and you visited Me...”*
Matthew 25:36

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Changes in Pleasing Worship

By Jack Critchfield

The writer of Ecclesiastes says in chapter 12 verse 13, *“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”* If we have a fear (respect for) of God, we will want to please Him. We learn to do that by careful examination of the scriptures. Unfortunately, many professed Christians are not careful in their examination of the scriptures. As a result, the focus of their worship, the priority of Jesus’ authority, and those who are to take the lead in worship are entirely missed. Let us consider God’s will concerning such.

The Lord is at the heart of our worship. When Daniel was a young man (probably a teenager) he was taken to Babylon. Selected to be part of the king’s court, he was to eat certain foods which were not allowed under the Law. Yet the text tells us he *“made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank”* (Daniel 1:8). We also see Jesus explaining to the Samaritan woman that God desires that our spirit communes with His (John 4:23-24). Paul warned that partaking of the Lord’s Supper without proper reflection on Jesus’ sacrifice would bring spiritual death (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). Despite these obvious truths, many change the focus of worship from the Lord to intellectualism or entertainment of others. We should give our best as we honor God. Yet, when we choose speakers based on their educational degrees or their turn of a phrase, we are emphasizing the wrong things. When “worship” becomes “jazzed up” choruses, clapping or waving of hands, and appeals to emotions over God’s Word, we have missed the focal point of “true worship.” The Lord wants us to center our hearts on knowing and keeping His word so that our *“faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Why do we worship the Lord in the first place? The writer tells us, *“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). All His commands are for our spiritual benefit (Deuteronomy 10:13). In every age God’s people have been and still are expected to follow His directives. Adam and Eve ate of the “forbidden” fruit and were driven out of the garden because of it (Genesis 3:22-24). Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, violated The Lord’s sacrificial system and were instantly killed by fire (Leviticus 10:1-2). Paul warned Timothy about the coming apostates who would be *“paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons”* (1 Timothy 4:1).

Worship in local congregations *“must be done properly and in an orderly manner”* (1 Corinthians 14:40). And, when it comes to acceptable worship who would know better than God Himself? Let us be satisfied with His ways and not ours.

How Do We Conduct Our Worship?

By Dylan Stewart

Congregations often sound and look different one from another. However, one thing that should not vary between congregations is worship. Now, this is not to say that congregations cannot construct, or order, their worship services differently than another group. As long as our actions are approved by God in His word, then our service is acceptable to Him (Psalm 119:160; Colossians 3:17). Contrarily, if we do things against God’s law, no matter how much we enjoy or believe what we are doing is “good,” then our service is not satisfactory to Him (James 2:10; Matthew 7:21-23). With this knowledge, it is not the construct of the worship service, but the conduct, or the manner in which we perform our worship, that matters most. Let us examine God’s Word to determine how we should conduct our worship:

- **In Spirit and Truth** – *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:24).
- **With Glory and Praise to God** – *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31); *“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”* (Psalm 95:1-2).
- **Not Lip-Service (Free of Hypocrisy)** – *“You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me’”* (Matthew 15:7-8).
- **In Happiness** – *“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing”* (Psalm 100:1-2); *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”* (Psalm 122:1).
- **In Thankfulness** – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of [or by the authority of] the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”* (Colossians 3:16-17).
- **In Reverence** – *“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe”* (Hebrews 12:28).
- **With Regularity** – *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:25).

Does our worship look like this?