

WORSHIP GOD

Int.

1. **Aim:** To show that we must worship God and some of the false ways in which people today attempt to worship.
2. John 4:24
3. Definition of Worship:
 - a. Holy Spirit's definition of worship is found in words of the Bible that tell of God's expectations of us as worshipers. Eight Greek words and four Hebrew words are translated into our English "worship." We will only look at three of those words!
 - b. **Proskuneo** - occurs 59 times in the New Testament translated worship. According to Thayer it means "to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence ... in N.T. by kneeling prostration to do homage or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication." Homage = honor, Obeisance, respect
 - c. **Sebomai** - occurs 10 times in the New Testament meaning "to reverence, hold in awe."
 - d. **Latreuo** - occurs 21 times in the N.T. and 98 times in the O.T. meaning to render religious service of homage, to worship. The word never refers to human relations but to God alone. Thayer says, "To perform sacred services, to offer gifts, to worship God in observance of rites instituted for his worship." This word emphasizes the thing done ... an act appointed by God to be done by the person who would worship Him.
 - e. The English word "**worship**" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon words "worth" and "ship" (worth-ship). The meaning is that we honor that which we believe to be worth more or superior to ourselves. [worthiness, respect, reverence paid to a divine being]

4. Worship is not:
 - a. Going to Church
 - b. Merely going through certain acts
 - c. Entertainment
5. Worship is paying homage to God in the way that God has commanded.

Discussion

I. WHAT DOES GOD WANT IN WORSHIP ?

- A. Sincere worship - Jn. 4:24 True - God
 1. In spirit - from the heart
 2. We must have the proper attitude and frame of mind.
 3. Just being in attendance does not mean that I worship.
 - a. It involves my heart, my mind.
 - b. Worship involves each person individually worshiping God.
 - c. An atheist might attend our service, but he does not worship.
 4. Our conduct at the worship service says a great deal about our sincerity !
 5. Illustration: Man who was not worshipping in spirit
 6. Worship in spirit must be from a bowed down, prostrate heart and a humble, forgiving attitude. If this condition is not present, the worship is merely ritualistic "lip service," not acceptable worship to God.
 7. Worship which is offered with the proper attitude will be worship which is free of pretense, hypocrisy, pride and false piety. This type worship will be characterized by humility, respect and reverence.

8. Worship which is offered with the proper attitude will eliminate the desire to be entertained and will also eliminate the desire to measure the preacher by how entertaining he is or by how high an emotional pitch can be created in the assembly.

B. True Worship - John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

1. Acceptable worship is based on God's revelation.
 - a. Abraham acted in response to God's word (Gen. 22:1,2).
 - b. The Hebrew writer said, "By faith Abraham ... offered up Isaac" (Heb. 11:17).
 - c. We read that "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).
2. Faith always presupposes a prior revelation.
 - a. Applying this lesson to our worship, we understand that our worship must be according to God's revelation.
 - b. Authority in worship does not come from the precepts or traditions of men but guided by the word of the Lord.
3. To worship in truth is to do just what God directs, nothing more, nothing less.

4. There are five actions which are authorized by the New Testament to be used when one worships God:
- a. The N.T. authorizes one to sing in worship to God (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).
 - (1) There is no Biblical authority for one to play a mechanical instrument or imitate the sounds of a mechanical instrument in worship to God.
Corporate worship involves congregational singing.
 - (2) Choirs and solos are not authorized in worship to God.
 - b. The New Testament authorizes one to pray by the authority of Jesus in worship to God (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:8-15). There is no authority for one to pray through Mary or use candles and the like in worship to God.
 - c. The New Testament authorizes one to teach the truth in worship to God (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7). This teaching of truth would involve teaching that which reproves, rebukes and exhorts the hearers in their worship and service to God. Women are restricted in teaching men. - 1 Tim. 2:12
 - d. The New Testament authorizes one to give of his means in worship to God (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8,9). Pie suppers, garage sales, car washes and the like are not authorized as means of securing funds by the church.
 - e. The New Testament authorizes one to observe the Lord's Supper each first day of the week in worship to God (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17-34).
 - (1) There is no authority for one to observe the Lord's Supper annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly.
 - (2) There is no authority for one to observe the Lord's Supper on any day other than the first day of the week.

C. Worship God

1. The only object of true worship is God.
 - a. Adam and Eve learned the penalty of elevating the authority of Satan above God's (Gen. 3:22-24).
 - b. The first commandment of the Mosaic law was "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" and the second prohibited making any graven images to worship (Exo. 20:3,4).
2. Satan tempted Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world if He would but fall down and worship him. Jesus replied, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve'" (Matt. 4: 8-10). "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve" NKJV Deut. 6:13
3. There is a vast difference in the worship of God and worship of other beings or things.
 - a. The worship of anything besides God is idolatry.
 - b. A person does not have to bow down to idols or such like to practice idolatry; he only has to place too high in his heart such things as material things, business, recreation, and even family.
 - c. God demands first place in every Christian's heart.

D. Acceptable worship pleases God and brings blessings upon the worshiper.

1. This obedience on Abraham's part delighted God's heart and brought about an expression of His appreciation.
2. God said through David, "Whoso offereth praise, glorifieth me, and to him that ordereth his conversation aright, will I show the salvation of God" (Ps. 50:23).

II. VAIN WORSHIP

- A. All worship is not acceptable and pleasing to God
1. Matt. 15:8-9 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."
 2. Vain worship is teaching something different from the commandments of God
 3. To worship God we must do what God asks us to do in worship to Him.
- B. An example - Lev. 10:1-2 "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD."
1. Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron - "offered strange fire"
 2. It was a different fire than the one God had authorized
 3. They were sincere, but they failed to worship as God commanded
 4. They lost their lives.
- C. Men today are suggesting that we change our worship:
1. They claim that we must do this in order to appeal to the Baby Boomer generation
 2. So there is a move under way to make changes in our worship to make it more appealing to the younger generation
 3. Do not want the worship service to be BORING.
 4. To solve this problem many are having two kinds of worship services:
Traditional or Contemporary [make it more up to date - modern]

- D. Some of the denominational churches are changing their worship:
1. Eliminate preaching - having drama
 2. Put on big presentations - bands - concerts - loud music [pass out ear plugs]
 3. One church staged a wrestling match featuring church employees or staff
 4. Dancing / dance groups
 5. Gimmicks of every kind are being used in denominational churches as a means of attracting people and making their worship appealing - entertainment
- E. Some in the Lord's church want to make Changes to make our services more appealing
1. More like entertainment - Jokes - make everyone feel good - Laughing - clapping
all positive preaching - do not disturb people
 2. Singing groups / choral groups /drama
 - a. Different kinds of songs -
 - b. Some with better voices use microphones on front pew
 3. Make the Lord's supper more sensational by having someone walk down the aisle carrying a cross
 4. No invitation offered - Sing a song - Respond if you have a Prayer need
- F. What is the problem when people want to use entertainment in worship?
1. It is a mistaken view of love - vain worship - Matt. 15:9
 2. If I love God then I seek to give to Him because I love Him. Therefore I will do what he asks me to do. John 14:15
 3. If a person is coming to worship to be entertained, he is not coming with the right motive, or purpose.
 4. A person who loves God will come to worship to express their love to God by doing what God has commanded him to do.

Conclusion

1. We want to be True Worshipers of God
 - a. Therefore we must worship as God has directed
 - b. We do not come to be entertained
 - c. But we understand that God has given us directions on how to worship him
2. Illustration “God I Wish You Had Been There” After attending church one Sunday morning, a little boy knelt at his bedside that night and prayed, “Dear God, we had a good time at church today—but I wish you had been there!”
3. In many services today God is not there because the people are not worshipping the God of heaven as he has directed, but they are worshipping themselves!!
4. Is worship boring?
5. HOW DO WE SHOW REVERENCE FOR GOD?
 - a. All that we do ought to demonstrate reverence for God (Colossians 3:23).
 - b. The thoughts that fill our minds, the language we use, and the deeds we do ought to all be done in reverence for God.
6. John 4:24

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Dec. 28, 2008
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