

Making Our Worship More Effective

Introduction:

1. God is our Creator, Gen. 1:26-28. In Him, we live, move, and have our being, Acts 17:28, and to Him we must all give an account in that last day, 2 Cor. 5:10.
2. God, in Whose “*image*” we were created, and to Whom we must ultimately give an account, wants us to worship Him, John 4:23-24.
3. But not only should we worship God; we should render unto God the glory, honor, and devotion which He so richly deserves! In brief, we should make our worship just as effective as we possibly can!

Discussion:

I. But What does it mean to Worship?

- A. “Worship” in the Old Testament.
 1. Translated from *Shachah*, and means “To worship, prostrate oneself, bow down, Exodus 34:8; 4:31.
- B. “Worship” in the New Testament.
 1. Most often translated from *Proskuneo* (Greek).
 2. Means “to make obeisance, do reverence to.” Matt. 4:10; John 4:21-24; I Cor. 14:26; Rev. 4:10; 5:14; 19:10; 22:9.
 3. “Broadly, it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgment to God, of His nature, attributes, ways, and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deeds done in such acknowledgment,” **Vine**.
 4. “It object...is the loving attempt to pay our unpayable debt of love, the expressions of devoted hearts,” **ISBE**, Volume 4, page 3112.
 - a. Hence, the proper question to ask at the end of the service is not “what did I get out of it,” but “was God pleased with what I did?”

II. The Object of Worship.

- A. God.
 1. John 4:23-24; Matt. 4:10.
- B. If God is the Object of our worship, then He has the right to determine what we do in worship, and how we should worship Him.
 1. It is not in man to direct his own steps, Jer. 10:23.
 2. The second major controversy following the creation involved unacceptable worship, Gen. 4:3-5; Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17.
 - a. Frank Sinatra was not the first who could say “I did it my way.”

III. How Are we to Worship? John 4:23-24.

- A. “*In Spirit*.”
 1. Man is a dual being, 2 Cor. 4:16.
 2. Worship “*in spirit*” involves that part of man that was created in the image of God, Gen. 1:27; Heb. 12:9.
 - a. It must therefore spring forth from that part of man which was created in the image of God. From the inner man – which involves the will, Matt. 26:41, the emotions, Acts 17:16, and the intellect, I Cor. 2:11.
 - b. It is worship from the inside out.
 - c. It necessarily involves the right attitude. Heb. 10:22; 12:28; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.
- B. “*In Truth*,” John 4:24.
 1. God’s word is truth, John 17:17.
 2. Worship “*in truth*” involves:
 - a. The right Object, Matt. 4:10; John 4:24.
 - b. The right “items:”
 - (1) Teaching or preaching, Acts 2:42; 20:7.
 - (2) Prayer, Acts 2:42.
 - (3) Singing, I Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16.
 - (4) Giving, I Cor. 16:1-2.
 - (5) The Lord’s Supper, Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-30.

IV. Making our Worship More Effective.

- A. Remembering the thoughts already discussed.
- B. Avoiding:
 1. Needless distractions.
 - a. Habitually arriving late.

- b. Talking to others during worship. We should take a lesson from the principles Paul cited in his letter to the church at Corinth – especially as it related to conduct during worship. I Cor. 14:27-31.
 - c. Sin in our lives, Isaiah 1:10-17.
- C. Remembering.
 - 1. That we are in the presence of God! He is the Audience!
Isaiah 6:1-5; Heb. 12:28.
 - 2. That God is the Object of our worship.
 - a. Hence, we must be focused on what pleases God, what glorifies God, and doing what He has authorized.
 - 3. To make preparation for worship.
 - a. Under the law of Moses, the Jews had a “day of Preparation” for the Passover (Ex. 12), and the Sabbath (Ex. 16:5,22).
 - b. Preparation for worship naturally begins before worship.
 - c. Those publicly involved should prepare before the time arrives.
 - 4. To examine ourselves, 2 Cor. 13:5; I Cor. 11:28.
 - 5. To maintain a right relationship with God.
 - a. Pray without ceasing, I Thess. 5:17.
 - b. Feed on God’s word every day; it is manna from heaven! Psa. 78:23-24; Matt. 4:4.
(1) Part of our “*daily bread*” should be the spiritual manna in the form of God’s word.
 - c. To be both salt and light, Matt. 5:13-16.
 - 6. That Sunday is the “*Lord’s day*,” Rev. 1:10.
 - a. Too many say “it is my day to relax,” or “it is my day to catch up on my chores,” “it is my day” to do this or that.

Conclusion:

- 1. It is a great blessing to be a child of God! Eph. 1:3.
 - 2. It is a great blessing to be privileged to meet with others of like precious faith and to worship God in keeping with His will.
 - a. When we really put ourselves into it, worship is spiritually refreshing; it builds up the inward man; it makes us long for heaven.
 - b. And it also makes us more like God, the Object of our worship! 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - c. It is something to which we should look forward with great anticipation, with much preparation, and entered into with much enthusiasm. But what we get out of worship primarily depends upon what we put into worship!
 - d. Try to imagine the scene described in Rev. 5:8-14; Rev. 19:6-7.
 - 3. On the other hand, try to imagine the contrasting scenes described in Matt. 13:41-43!
- Bobby Witherington, March 5, 2017