

THEY THAT WORSHIP GOD (II)

Jhn 4:19-24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Thus far we have defined worship as to what it is and what it is not as viewed from the perspective of God's word.
- B. Today I want to continue to look at worship and explore various kinds of Worship and our attitudes toward worship as well as some efforts to improve our worship services.
- D. Then, I want to go back and look at our text and examine the two qualifying characteristics of worship that pleases God.

DISCUSSION:

I. VARIOUS KINDS OF WORSHIP

- A. Creature worship Rom 1:25; Isa 44:15-17
- B. Vain worship: ignore God's instructions Mk 7:1-7
 - 1. By not using the proper form even though in spirit
 - 2. By using proper form but not in spirit Jhn 4:24
- C. Ignorant worship: not knowing what forms of worship are acceptable to God Acts 17:23; 18:13
- D. Will worship: a self imposed humility shown by that which man believes to be pious and pleasing to God or an artificial outward show such as is practiced by some denominations and is beginning to be used by some who claim to be the Lord's church Col 2:18-23
- E. Mock worship: making a show of reverence while all the while holding the object of worship in contempt Mk 15:19

II. WHAT IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD WORSHIP?

- A. Our demeanor - actions, words, clothing, etc indicates our attitude
 - 1. Posture Gen 24:52 indicative of reverence or respect
 - 2. Clothing 2Sam 12:20 indicative of respect for Lord's house - place of worship (Jer 2:32; Prov 7:10; Josh 7:6; Prov 31:21; Matt 11:8; Mk 12:38; Jas 2:3)
 - 3. Our demeanor - deportment: i.e. gum chewing, talking, passing notes, playing with babies, etc. (1Sam 21:11-14; 1Tim 3:2; Tit 2:3) (Our behavior (demeanor or deportment) indicates something to those around us, whether an accurate indication of our heart or not)
- B. Are we careless, indifferent, irreverent
 - 1. Worship is paying homage [ceremony by which one acknowledges himself the vassal (a person under the protection of another) of a Lord] to God
 - 2. When used toward God it means REVERENCE, A FEELING OF AWE OR DEVOTION, TO SERVE OR RENDER RELIGIOUS SERVICE.
 - 3. I wonder just how many of us have the proper attitude toward worship to God
- B. Is worship to God just a necessity to miss hell or do we enjoy worshipping God Psa 122:1

III. EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WORSHIP

- A. These efforts go beyond regulating the form: the heart must be improved
 - 1. No order, fixed or varied will make spiritual worship, it may prevent habitual action, but also may create an air of uncertainty
 - 2. Form cannot be substituted for true worship Amos 5:21-27

- B. Many tried to improve worship by proposing bizarre emotion stirring props: special lighting, mood music, songs that force participation, required responses, etc.
- C. The "hypocrisy of traditional services" is not helped by providing a mask - an emotional screen.
- D. Fault for "habit" type service is not necessarily in the order and NEVER altogether in the order. Some worship scripturally always using the same order; others could vary the order weekly and never worship in spirit and truth.

IV. TWO QUALIFYING TERMS REGULATE OUR WORSHIP

- A. In spirit
 - 1. pneuma, (from Strong's Greek Dictionary) a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit:--ghost, life, spirit(-ual, -ually), mind.
 - 2. It seems obvious from this definition that God want our worship to be from our mind, that is as we say sometimes "from the depths of our soul" or "from the bottom of our heart"
 - 3. This involves our "feelings" or our "emotions" – that is we must "put something into our worship" Note "diligently" Heb 11:6
- B. In truth
 - 1. Whatever we do it must be according to God's commands Jhn 14:15,21
 - 2. We can't just say "Lord, Lord" – we must do His will Matt 7:21

CONCLUSION:

- A. Worshipping acceptably is part and parcel of the whole job of turning people to God, getting them to partake of the divine nature; making people into "new creatures".
- B. After determining that the acts engaged in, in the public assembly are according to truth, each individual must examine themselves to see if they are worshipping God acceptably as they engage in the various acts of worship commanded for the public assembly
- C. Remember: Paul said, our bodies are "living sacrifices" Rom 12:1,2. Therefore, our very lives are to be offered in worship to God.