

TEACHING AS WORSHIP

Acts 2:42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In discussing the matter of worship we have talked about our singing, observance of the Lord's supper and prayer – two of these are included in Acts 2:42. There is another action engaged in by these early disciples which we want to talk about this morning.
- B. There is the matter of their continuing in the apostles "doctrine" (teaching). Not many would object to prayer being classified as an item of worship because it is directed to God through Jesus Christ, thereby honoring God and His Son.
- C. However, This matter of teaching is worship also and is just as important in our assembly as any other act of worship.
- D. Yet I hear people say, "Oh, well, its just Bible study." As if attending a Bible study period is of less importance than other items of worship.
- E. Let's notice the importance of teaching as worship to God and some reasons why it is important.

DISCUSSION:

I. EXAMPLE FROM OLD TESTAMENT MEETING TO CONSIDER GOD'S WORD Neh.8:1-8

- A. Examine the attitudes and actions in Neh.8:1-8 in this meeting to read God's word
 - 1. V.1 they gathered together as "one man", there was a unified purpose of all the people
 - 2. V.3 the ears of ALL the people were ATTENTIVE unto the book of the law. They "paid attention"
 - 3. V.5 when the book was opened "all the people stood up". This indicates a reverence for the book
 - 4. V.6 they agreed God is Lord, a great God, they said "amen, amen."
 - 5. V.6 their actions demonstrated their awe and Reverence for God's word. they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground
- B. All through history when God has spoken to man, man Has shown his reverence and awe of God's word
 - 1. God has spoken to us today through his Son Heb.1:1,2
 - 2. The Scriptures we read from are divinely inspired 2Tim 3:16,17 and are the same as if God was speaking directly to us
- C. When we exhibit this reverence for God's word we are indeed worshipping him
- D. When we teach for doctrines the commandments of men our worship is vain. Matt.15:9

II. EXAMPLE FROM NEW TESTAMENT MEETING TO CONSIDER GOD'S WORD Acts 15:4-29

- A. Church met when doctrinal practices questioned Acts 15:4
 - 1. The doctrine was given an audience 15:5
 - 2. Apostles and elders considered the matter 15:6
 - 3. Note Peter's appeal to God's plan 15:7-11
 - 4. Paul and Barnabas cite precedence approved by Holy Spirit 15:12
 - 5. James appeals to the prophets 15:15-18
 - 6. All sanctioned by the Holy Spirit 15:28
- B. Note the attitude of the multitude at this "Bible study". They all kept silence and gave audience - they paid attention to what was being said

III. TEACHING GOD'S WORD (TRUTH) SHOWS REVERENCE FOR GOD (WORSHIP) IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD LEADS TO APOSTASY

- A. Israel apostatized as a result of one of two things
 - 1. They did not know God's law Hos.4:6 (reason Jud.2:10)
 - 2. Or they had no respect for God's law Jer.36:23,24
- B. Lord's church (spiritual Israel) will fall from same causes
 - 1. Every apostasy has resulted from ignorance of or a lack of respect for God's law 2Tim.4:1-4
 - 2. In most cases it is a combination of both
 - a. false prophets will come 2Pet.2:1-3
 - b. only those taught will stand 1Cor.11:19
- C. There is now a great dearth of knowledge of God's word In the Lord's church
 - 1. Take pride in having nice Bibles, but don't know them
 - 2. We listen, but do we receive and search Acts 17:11
- D. God expects, demands, requires Bible knowledge Acts 17:30
 - 1. Purpose of revelation is knowledge 1Cor.2:12; Jhn.7:17
 - 2. Must continue growing, requires study Heb.5:12-14
 - 3. Note the contrast in attitude of righteous man and ungodly, toward the word Psa.1:1-6
 - 4. Something is wrong with our attitude toward God's word when we go for days and weeks without opening our Bible either at home or in the assembly

CONCLUSION:

- A. In school we cram for examinations to make sure we are prepared to pass the test over the material presented
- B. Our eternal destiny will be determined by how well we learn and apply God's word to our lives. It will judge us Jhn.12:48
- C. Surely this means that we ought to reverence God by spending time in reverent contemplation of His word
- D. How interested are you in studying and discussing God's word your attendance at Bible study periods says something about your interest.