

True Worship -- Part 4

“How We Worship”

Introduction; Man likes to innovate

- A. Many feel that, ‘*Variety is the spice of life.*’
 - 1. To innovate means to, ‘*try out new ideas: to introduce a new way of doing something or a new device*’ — MS Encarta.
 - 2. Men like to change things, to do new things and to do things differently.
 - 3. Another saying is, ‘*Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door.*’
- B. Not all change is good.
 - 1. Modern business recognizes that most people associate newer with better. Therefore they change their products every so often—or at least say they do.
 - 2. Not all the changes are an improvement. Sometimes the older product is better. However products often sell better if they are advertised as new and improved.
- C. Many times change is good.
 - 1. Men are not perfect and what they do is not perfect. Most things can be improved because of this. What one man devises, another can improve on.
 - 2. Many things that are new are improved. We just have to be careful to not believe the advertising but check for ourselves.
- D. One area man cannot improve is in religion.
 - 1. We must not **innovate** in matters pertaining to God. We cannot introduce new ways of worshipping Him nor try out new ideas.
 - 2. The history of religion is one of innovation, of the trying out of new ideas. All such things are condemned in the Bible.
 - 3. This does not mean there are no areas where we have choices in religion. There are. But we must be very careful to not change what should not be changed.
- E. Today we will study how to worship God in Truth.

I. Lord’s Supper

- A. In our study of ‘**True Worship**’ we have looked at several topics.
 - 1. We looked at ‘**False Worship**’ and saw there are many ways to incorrectly worship God. He does not accept any of these ways.
 - 2. We considered ‘**True Worship in Spirit and in Truth**’. This is worshipping God in the right way and from the heart. It is the sincere worship that God has set up.
 - 3. We then studied ‘**Preparing for Worship**’. If we want to worship ‘in spirit’ we must prepare ourselves by living for the Lord every day of the week.
 - 4. Today we will consider ‘**Worship in Truth**’. This is worshipping as God commanded. It is having book, chapter and verse for all we do. It is doing things ‘*by the book*’. The book is the Bible, the N.T.
 - 5. We will look at what God commanded us to do in ‘public’ worship and how He commanded us to do it.
- B. The first ‘act of worship’ we will consider is the Lord’s supper or communion.
 - 1. The L.S. was established by Jesus Christ the night He was betrayed. After celebrating the Jewish Passover He gave new meaning to it and set up the Communion service.
 - 2. **Matthew 26:17**; Jesus and His disciples are getting ready to eat the Passover. This was a memorial of God saving the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt.
 - 3. **Vs 26-29**; Jesus declares the bread to be His body and the cup to be His blood. This is the Passover so the bread is unleavened. In the cup is fruit of the vine or grape juice.

4. They are to eat the bread and drink the cup in **remembrance of Him** –Luke 22:19. Disciples are to remember the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for their sins by partaking of the Communion.
 5. The disciples do not understand this yet. They do not understand the necessity of Jesus' death. Yet this will become very important to them later.
- C. Even in the early church some tried to innovate, to change the Lord's supper.
1. Most changes in the Lord's church occurred after the deaths of the apostles. They occurred over hundreds of years.
 2. Yet some were happening in the first century, within a few years after the church and its worship was established. This shows man's ego to think he can do things better than the Lord.
 3. **1 Corinthians 11:17-19**; Paul will not praise Corinth for their partaking of the Lord's supper. There are several things wrong. First they are divided. Jesus and His apostles were not on that Passover night.
 4. **Vs 20-22**; Paul says they were **not** eating the Lord's supper. Doing something and calling it the L.S. did not make it so. They had to do it right.
 5. Paul condemns their worship for several reasons. First they were divided. They were not doing it as a group. We come together **as the church** to partake of the L.S. It is not to be done in groups or at home or alone.
 6. **Vs 23-26**; They needed to restore the pure worship of the church. They needed to get back to what Jesus did the night He was betrayed.
 7. The church, as one body, partakes of the bread and fruit of the vine in remembrance of Jesus Christ and His death. By doing this the church proclaims the Lord's death until He comes again.
 8. *Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*
 9. The church came together on Sunday to break bread. This is the Lord's supper or communion. Sunday is the day the saints come together to celebrate their Savior's death and resurrection.
 10. In verse 6 Paul had stayed in Troas 7 days to meet with the saints. He arrived on a Monday and stayed until Sunday to worship with the saints and partake of the L.S.,
- D. We see then the simple N.T. pattern for the Lord's supper.

II. Giving

- A. The second act of the worship of the church is giving.
1. Many religious leaders have abused the teaching about giving for their own ends. Giving is what many think of when they think of religion.
 2. Giving is important but men often give it far more attention than the Lord does.
 3. Giving was very detailed in the O.T. They were to give ten percent to the temple. They were also to bring many sacrifices and other gifts. They gave more than ten percent.
- B. The N.T. teaches us to give.
1. *1 Cor 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*
 2. We see here that giving is to be done on the first day of the week. This is when the church came together to break bread.
 3. We also see it is '*as we may prosper*'. Paul does not say ten percent. The giving of the N.T. is from the heart. It is not mechanical as under the O.T.
 4. We also see giving is congregational. They gave when the church came together so the church would have the money when they needed it.
 5. *2 Cor 9:6-8 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work,*
 6. In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 Paul is again talking about the collection for the poor saints in Judea. He is encouraging Corinth to lay aside what they promised.
 7. He teaches the principle of sowing bountifully —giving much. He also teaches that giving must come from the heart for God loves a cheerful giver —vs 7.

8. He also says that this free-will giving is the way the church finances every good work it is suppose to do —vs 8.
9. Giving is a command of God. We give for the church to do the work God has given it to do. It is to be done on the first day of the week.
10. Yet how much to give is left up to us. We give according to how we are able but bountifully. Giving must be done in truth but it must be done from the heart as well.

C. Giving is not as simple as we often think. We must think about our giving.

III. Singing

A. Singing is a third thing the early church did.

1. Under the law of Moses they used instruments of music and had professional choirs and Musical directors. We do not see this in the N.T. nor in the first thousand years of the church.
2. The music of the early church was congregational and vocal for a thousand years or so. Slowly men began to get back to instruments and choirs and other things.
3. In many churches today the music is very professional. They have gone back to the law of Moses to justify what they do. This is too far back for the church. We must go only to the N.T. for all our authority.

B. Singing is commanded.

1. Congregational singing is what we see in the N.T. church. That is what Jesus and the disciples did after He established the Lords supper.
2. *Matt 26:30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*
3. Singing has a purpose. It is not entertainment. It is not just emotional. Some have said the singing as the emotions of the church and the preaching the intellect. This isn't entirely true.
4. *Eph 5:18-20 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...*
5. *Col 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
6. We see singing is speaking one to another, hence congregational. We see it is intellectual because we are to teach and admonish one another.
7. It is also emotional. We are to be filled with the Spirit and involve our heart. We make melody in our hearts and sing with grace in our hearts. We encourage one another by our singing.
8. Singing is to the Lord in both passages. We sing to one another to teach, admonish and encourage. We sing to God to praise and give thanks to Him as we worship.
9. Both passages say we sing from our hearts. This is spiritual worship. We make melody or music in our hearts to God and sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.
10. Singing is part of our worship. It is the sacrifice of our lips. In the book of Revelation we see singing around the throne of God. It begins here and continues into heaven.
11. *Heb 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*
12. Singing is not limited to the first day of the week as the L.S. and giving are. We can sing as the people of God anytime.

C. We see the book teaches congregational singing as worship to God.

IV. Prayer

A. Prayer is important.

1. Someone has said that God has had one Child without sin and no child without prayer.
2. Both the Old and New Covenants are full of examples of God's saints praying. Abraham, David, Daniel and many others in the O.T. testify of this. Jesus prayed often and sometimes all night. Paul often talks about his prayers for the saints and churches.

3. Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. We must learn to pray and pray often, both publicly and privately.

B. Prayer is taught in the New Testament.

1. *1 Thess 5:16-18 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
2. Paul commands Christians to always rejoice, pray and give thanks. Prayer must be a part of our life, both private and congregational.
3. *Acts 4:24-25 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 "who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: "Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?"*
4. *Acts 21:5 When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.*
5. *Acts 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.*
6. We see many examples of the early church praying. There were many reasons why they prayed. We need to be concerned about praying enough.
7. *1 Tim 2:1-2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*
8. Prayer must be to the Father in the Lord's name. It must also be according to the Lord's will —Matt 26:42. We must ask for what we need and leave things in the Lord's hands.
9. *John 16:23-24 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 'Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."*

C. When it is hard to pray, we must pray harder.

V. Preaching & Bible Study

A. The last thing we see the early church doing as a congregation is Bible study.

1. Preaching and teaching was a very important part of the early church. Jesus said to go everywhere teaching the word. They did just that.
2. We cannot obey God without knowing His word. We cannot know how to become a Christian without knowing the Gospel plan of Salvation.
3. We also cannot worship properly unless we know the truth about worship. We must make time for Bible study, both public and private, both congregational and alone.

B. We are commanded to study.

1. We must study to grow ourselves. We study so we can be more diligent in serving Him. We learn how to live better so we can achieve heaven.
2. *Phil 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ...*
3. The church is to continue from generation to generation by Bible study. If we do not study together and teach and encourage one another the church may not continue —at least where we are at.
4. *2 Tim 2:1-2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*
5. Paul preached everywhere. He was not limited by a 'church building'. He taught anywhere he could. He did not 'teach them and leave them.' He continued to teach them.
6. *Acts 20:20 "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,*

7. *Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*
8. *1 Thess 3:9-10 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?*
9. Paul was only able to stay a few months at Thessalonica. He worried about them because he had not been able to teach them all he though they needed. We must grow in the faith.
10. *2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*
11. *2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work,*
12. We must grow and we must help one another grow. Bible study is another act of worship that is not limited to the first day of the week. We can do it together or alone, as the church or in our home.

C. We see we must study God's word together.

Conclusion; Men like to change things.

A. This is part of human nature.

1. We think we have a better idea. We think we can improve on things. This is true in most things.
2. It is also true in religion. However we need to beware that we do not go beyond what the Lord has commanded.

B. We must become a Christian by faith, repentance and baptism.

1. This is what the Lord teaches. It does not matter how many preachers or churches say otherwise.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who died for our sins. We are sorry for our sins and turn from them. We are buried with Christ in baptism to wash away those sins and get in Christ where salvation is.
3. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
4. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

C. If the church can help anyone in their obedience to the Lord, please let us.