

WORSHIPPING WITH PURPOSE

November 1, 2009

Intro: I have had a lot of discussion with a lot of people in the past year about worship. Over the next few weeks, I am going to share with you a balanced Biblical perspective on worship. Keep an open mind.

Text: Romans 12:1 (NIV) *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

I. We have to focus on our goals. Our goals should be eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV) *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

1 Corinthians 13:10-13 (KJV) *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away... And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Luke 21:33 (KJV) *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

A. Some things are a means to an end. Some are a result of our goal.

B. But our focus must be on our goal and our goal is to please God.

II. At Liberty we put most importance on the following goals:

A. Salvation of Souls (healing, deliverance...)

B. Love (unity)

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT) *Love does not demand its own way.*

C. Truth / The Word (revelation)

D. Presence of God or a Relationship with God

III. What things are a means to reaching this goal?

A. Praise / Worship / Music

B. Teaching / Discipleship

C. Fellowship

D. Sacrifice / Giving / Serving / Commitment

We need all of these to reach the goal, but they must be focused on producing and maximizing our goals and not solely on our personal tastes and desires.

IV. What things will be a result of reaching the goal?

A. Joy & Peace

B. Faith & Hope

C. Praise (both a means of entering God's presence and a result)

V. Worship is defined as sacrifice or a bowing down

Genesis 22:5 (NKJV) *And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."*

Hebrews 13:15 (KJV) *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

If we are going to worship together, we are all going to have to do some things that are not our "style." This is the heart of sacrificial worship and one of the definitions of love.

Musical tastes are not a matter of right or wrong.

But if we are not walking in love, would that be wrong?

If we are not focused on saving souls, would that be wrong?

If we do not cling to the teaching of sound doctrine and truth, would that be wrong?

If we are not experiencing the presence of God, would that be wrong?

Exodus 33:14-15 (NIV) *The Lord telling Moses to leave Mt Sinai "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.*

Conclusion: Ultimately, its not about experiencing cool stuff. Its about pleasing God.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (NLT) *I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters,* about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NLT) *And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (The Message) *and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's Spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else.*

A monumental move is being made today by adding to our vision: Pleasing God, Loving People, Changing Lives

THE HEART OF WORSHIP 2
November 8, 2009

Intro: We are teaching on a balanced Biblical perspective and understanding of worship in the church. Worship is about sacrifice.

Text: Exodus 20:18-21, Exodus 32:1-6

I. The Golden Calf

- A. The people were assembled at the base of the mountain to hear God and experience His presence as He spoke to them
- B. God wanted the people to see His power and respect his authority
- C. The people feared that Moses had been consumed by the fire
- D. The people became bored with God's message of laws & sacrifice
- E. They said "Let us make gods that will serve us or suit our own desires." This was the heart of idolatry.
- F. The calf was a substitute for the presence of God and patterned after a worldly god or a wordly system of worship in Egypt
- G. The calf was a facade for the people to celebrate and party
- H. Sacrifice was not their goal, it was an excuse to celebrate

II. The _____ was God's pattern for worship

A. The Entrance to the Temple / Outer Court

- 1. Praise and celebration was in their hearts
- 2. Sacrifices of people were made at the altar of burnt offering
- 3. Cleansing of priests took place at the bronze laver

Psalm 100:4 (KJV) *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise*

Jeremiah 17:26 (KJV) *And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD.*

B. The Holy Place

- 1. The Lampstand represented their worship of the Light of God through His Words. The priests would enter in the morning to trim the wicks on the lamps.
- 2. The Table of Showbread. Worship of God as the provider and sustainer of life through offerings. The priests would replace with fresh loaves every Sabbath.
- 3. Altar of Incense. Incense was burned every day as a symbol of worship through prayer. Incense was taken once a year by high priest into Holy of Holies. Symbolized the glory of God.

C. The Holy of Holies - Where the Presence of God Lived

- 1. This is our goal in praise and worship

Psalm 22:3 (KJV) *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*

True praise will result in the presence of God showing up. Our goal is to attract the presence of God and believe if He is present people will be drawn to Him.

- 2. We are now all priests and the veil has been removed

Hebrews 10:19-22 (KJV) *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.*

- 3. Jesus defined true worshippers as those that worshipped
 - a) In spirit - from within their heart as a priest, not all physical as in the outer court
 - b) In truth - not hidden. His presence is no longer hidden behind a veil. We can all go in.

John 4:23-24 (KJV) *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. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Spirit: _____

Truth: Root of the word means no longer _____

Conclusion: Don't live in the _____

Jesus died so that the veil to the Holy of Holies would be removed and we all could enter in.

THE HEART OF WORSHIP 3

November 15, 2009

Introduction: Understanding we must have purpose and sacrifice in our worship is key to our worship experience together. There is a Biblical pattern for these purposes and how to accomplish them.

Text: Matthew 4:8-10 (KJV) *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

I. Two Things Must Be Reflected in Our Worship to Bring Balance

A. _____
Words that describe Biblical worship include: Dance, clap, lifting hands, kneeling, bowing, shouting, laying, sacrifice, giving

Genesis 4:3-5 (KJV) *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

Things that seem natural to us, may be wrong to God

Not all sacrifice is obedience

This is the beginning of struggle in worship

B. _____
1 Corinthians 14:10-12, 39-40, 33 (KJV) *There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. ... Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order. ... For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

II. Understanding Satan's Devices

Isaiah 14:12-14 (KJV) *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

- A. It is our understanding that Lucifer led worship in heaven
- B. It is not a coincidence that he would try to pervert worship on the Earth, attack in the realm of worship, or desire our worship
- C. One of the attitudes of the flesh is that our way is always higher or holier
- D. Is there something in your flesh holding you back from worship?

Conclusion: Satan Understands that Worship Transfers the _____ of a Kingdom. Jesus was not interested in obtaining the glory of the kingdoms of the world, His mission was to bring the Kingdom of God to the World.

THE HEART OF WORSHIP 4

November 22, 2009

Introduction: Not all singing is sacrifice. Not all church singing has the right purpose. God intended for worship to have as its purpose, the pursuit of the presence of God and the transference of the reign of His kingdom.

Text: Exodus 32:15-26

I. Moses' Reaction to Golden Calf Worship

A. Their _____ was disturbing to Moses and Joshua

1. It was not the sound of those who shouted because of strength
2. It was not the sound of those who cried out because of weakness

Hebrews 4:16 (KJV) *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

B. Singing (Heb: anah) To be occupied with, used to describe the pain and affliction of slavery

C. Moses called their singing and dancing a great sin

D. He ground up the gold and made them drink it so what they did would make them sick to their stomach

E. Those who were most defiant were put to death

II. "Who is on the side of the _____?"

A. Only the Levites stood on God's side

B. God Planned For Israel To Be A Kingdom of Priests Ex. 19:1-6

C. Through Christ In Us God Finally Develops A Kingdom of Priests

Revelation 1:5-6 (NKJV) *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.*

Conclusion: We Are Appointed to Worship and _____

We will not reign till we learn how to worship