

Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649
 (812) 944-2305
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Sundays
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
 Worship.....10:30 AM
 Worship.....6:00 PM

Wednesdays
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

Elders
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

Deacons
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

Evangelist & Editor
 Brian Anderson.....317-442-9507
 Email: brian.anderson2@arconic.com

Goals For 2020
Theme
 A Church With 2020 Vision
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40;
Sunday AM: 50
Sunday PM: 40; Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Hold a "Bible Basics" Class
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

We are now in the 27th week of our Bible Reading.

Prayer List
 Sharon Nale
 Les & Novema Dunn
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)
 Sharon Thompson
 The Wards
 Dale Kahl
 Brooke Thomas

Worship: Psalm 122:1, John 4:23-24, Lev. 10:1-3

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
 Matt. 26:26-29

Scripture Reading
 AM: See Preacher
 PM: See Preacher

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month: 2
 Invites last month: 110
 Visitors last year: 48
 Visitors YTD: 8

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Place Stamp Here



The Clarksville Beacon

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Clarksville Church of Christ

July 5, 2020

Worship

Welcome!
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

God created man with an instinctive need to worship. When man worships God as the Lord has instructed, there is something intensely thrilling and satisfying about being in His presence. But here's the question: Does it really matter how a person worships? Can a person worship God in any way that he chooses and in any way that feels good, and that worship be acceptable and pleasing to God? Let's investigate that for a moment.

First, the Bible teaches that not all worship is acceptable to God. The first record of worship in the Bible shows there is such a thing as acceptable worship and such a thing as unacceptable worship. "The Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering" (Gen. 4:4-5). Not all worship is alike. This is seen again with Nadab and Abihu, when they "offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them" (Lev. 10:1-2). Jesus Himself taught that some worship man offers is "in vain" (Matt. 15:8-9). So, how can we know if our worship is acceptable to God?

Second, the Bible teaches that God is both the object and the governor of true worship. Jesus taught an essential lesson about worship in John 4. Study His words carefully: "...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (4:23-24). By identifying "true worshipers," Jesus implied there can be "false worshipers." Jesus identified the proper object of worship ("God"), the proper attitude of worship ("in spirit") and the proper standard of worship ("truth"). As the Creator and focus of the worship of the church, God alone has the right to govern and regulate what happens in worship. To worship in "truth," we must look to His "Word," which "is truth" (John 17:17) and the only standard for worship.

Third, the Bible teaches that Sunday is the authorized day of worship. The day of worship, as authorized by God in the New Testament, is not optional. Man is not authorized to choose the day of worship or to teach that Saturday is as equally authorized as Sunday. God specified and authorized "the first day of the week" as the day of worship for the New Testament church. Jesus was raised on Sunday (Mark 16:9); He gathered with His disciples on Sunday (John 20:19, 26); the church was established on Sunday (Acts 2:1-47); and the church assembled in New Testament times on every Sunday to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 11:20). To worship as God authorizes requires worshipping on the day that He specified.

Worshipping God is a sacred privilege. The very thought of coming into His presence ought to drive every worshiper to ensure that his every effort in worship is that which is authorized by and pleasing to the Lord. After all, we are not the object of worship. God is! Worship must be done His way!

Why Not A Piano?

Is it really a big deal to use a piano or some mechanical instrument in worship? That's a question often asked when someone visits the church of Christ, and it is a very good question to consider, as we must examine every "word or deed" in which we engage to ensure we "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17).

Worship is God-directed and, therefore, must be God-directed. That may sound repetitive but consider this. The first time Jesus spoke of worship, He said, "You shall worship the Lord your God" (Matt. 4:10). God is the audience; our worship must be directed toward Him. Since true worship is directed toward Him, it must, of necessity, be directed by Him. God determines what worship is.

True worshipers must worship as governed by truth. Again, that may sound repetitive but consider this. When Jesus first spoke of worship in the gospel of John, He affirmed, "...True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24). Jesus, again, not only emphasized that God is the focus of worship, but the Son of God emphasized that true worship is regulated by truth—not some manmade truth but THE truth, that is the word of God, "the word of truth" (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15).

The only worship that God will accept is worship which He has authorized as acceptable. Many examples can be found in Scripture of those who approached God in worship but did so in an unacceptable manner (Gen. 4:3-7; Lev. 10:1-3; 1 Sam. 13:8-14; Matt. 15:7-9; etc.). Frequently the New Testament speaks of approaching God "acceptably" (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:10; Phil. 4:18; 1 Pet. 2:5). God demands acceptable worship and only God can determine and dictate what is acceptable.

New Testament worship is New Testament worship, not Old Testament worship. Again, this statement may seem obvious, like the others, but it is significant. Old Testament worship included killing animals, offering them on an altar, sprinkling their blood, burning incense, playing various instruments, etc. None of these are authorized in New Testament worship.

When God specifies what He wants, He's specific. God told Noah to build an ark of wood—specifically gopher wood (Gen. 6:14). No other wood was authorized. God told Moses to build an ark of wood—acacia wood (Ex. 25:10). No other wood was authorized. God told Christians to worship Him with music—singing music (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). No other music was authorized. We must do all by His authority!

Two Hearts

It is tragic that some look at worship as being boring and find little joy in the time they spend in worship. Contrast this attitude with heart of David who spoke of the place worship had in his heart and his devotion to worship. Look at the following psalms as David describes his attitude toward praising his Maker.

David Praised God with All His Heart

David said, "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart...I will praise You with uprightness of heart...I will praise You with my whole heart" (Psalm 9:1; 119:7; 138:1). The soul which loves God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength will find great joy in praising God will all of his might. Worship should never be a chore to be dreaded but anticipated with one's entire being.

David Praised God in the Public Assembly

Hear these words from the godly heart of David. "I will declare Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You...I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people" (Psa. 22:22; 35:18). The first verse is applied to Jesus and His presence in our assemblies (Heb. 2:12). Do you want your praise to Him to be meaningful? Then imagine Jesus sitting beside you singing!

David Praised God Before All

The man after God's own heart worshiped God unashamedly. "I will praise you...before the gods I will sing praises to You...I will praise You, O Lord, among the people, and I will sing praises to You among the nations" (Psa. 138:1; 108:3). There was no hesitancy or timidity in David's praise of God. Even when he fled from King Saul and lived among the heathen, he continued to praise God. We must never let peer pressure hinder our worship of God. David also described his worship this way. "I will praise You...I will tell of all your marvelous works" (Psa. 139:14). We need to worship Him and thereby show and tell others how much joy we have in worship.

David Praised God Forever

"I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore" (Psa. 86:12). There are some Christians who do not share this attitude in praising God. They seemingly worship God only when it is convenient for them, but in doing this, they are so different from David. When he penned the psalms, he was devoted to worship, and as he looked to the future, he knew he would always feel this way.

Take time today to measure your life of praise against that of David. Worship changes your heart. Perhaps this is why David's heart was like the heart of God. Is yours?