

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Worship Can Be Dangerous

By Derek Long

Worshipping God is something we need to take seriously. Worshipping God is not something we should treat casually. Psalm 89:7 reminds us, "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him" (NKJV). Worship is something which can become dangerous if it is not approached correctly.

One of the earliest examples of worship in the Bible is the example of Cain and Abel. Genesis 4 tells us how Cain and Abel each offered sacrifices to God. Cain brought God sacrifices of produce from the field and Abel brought God sacrifices of animals. God accepted Abel and his sacrifice but rejected Cain and his sacrifice. Hebrews 11:4 tells us Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith. In order to do something by faith, it must be done based upon what God's word teaches (Romans 10:17). Cain's sacrifice was not offered by faith but instead, "his works were evil" (1 John 3:12, NKJV). Offering God some form of worship does not guarantee that God will be pleased with us and the worship we offer. Our worship must be offered based upon what God's word teaches us to offer in order to be pleasing to Him (John 4:24).

Another example of worship which was dangerous is the worship offered by Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10. Leviticus 10:1-2 tells about Nadab and Abihu being devoured by fire from the Lord because of the worship they offered on this occasion. Nadab and Abihu were people who were authorized to offer worship being priests. God had authorized the use of incense in worship to Him under the Old Testament. Nadab and Abihu did several things the right way in their worship of God but they used something in their worship God had not commanded them to use. Adding the use of an unauthorized fire resulted in them being killed by the Lord. Today, there are people who might do several things in their worship which God authorizes. They may pray, sing songs, and teach God's word but add to their worship the use of mechanical instruments of music which God has not commanded today. As a result, their worship is no longer pleasing to God.

During the days of the kings, we see another example of how worship could become dangerous. In 2 Chronicles 26:16-23, we read about Uzziah going into the temple to offer incense before God. Uzziah was not authorized to offer incense in the temple though. As a result, God struck him with leprosy and he would eventually die a leper. Uzziah had previously been a faithful individual (2 Chronicles 26:4-5). A person can go from faithfully following the Lord and venture outside of what God has authorized and their worship will not be pleasing to God.

These three examples help us understand it is important for us to consider carefully how we approach God in worship. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 says, "Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not

be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few" (NKJV). When we worship God, we might do well to ask ourselves questions like the following: 1. Is what I am doing in worship authorized and following the pattern laid out in God's word (2 Timothy 1:13)? 2. Do I mean what I am saying and doing in my worship to God (Ecclesiastes 5:1-2)? 3. Is my mind focused on what I am doing while worshipping God (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)? 4. Is my life pleasing to God so my worship will be acceptable to Him (Proverbs 15:8-9; 1 Timothy 2:8; Matthew 5:23-24)?

Let's be careful to offer to God the type of worship which will be pleasing in His sight!