

TRUE WORSHIP (I): *PREACHING/TEACHING*

Introduction

- 1) **John 4:24** – True worship unto God *must be* “in spirit and in truth”
- 2) True worship must be according to the will of God
 - a) He is our true audience – “for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (v. 23)
- 3) Our worship of God is one of the most important aspects of our entire lives
 - a) Heaven is full of worship (Rev. 4:9-11; 5:14; 19:4); our lives must reflect the same desire
 - b) Many feel they can offer their own designed worship, or change what God has commanded
- 4) Let’s give careful attention to our worship which involves both God’s will *and* our obedience

I) **What Is True Worship?**

- A) “Worship” (*shachah* [Heb]; *proskuneo* [Gk]) – reverence, rendering homage, falling down before; acts of worship are to demonstrate humble reverence and adoration
 - 1) Attitude of heart *and* specific activity (Gen. 22:5; 2 Sam. 12:20; Acts 8:27; Matt. 15:8-9)
 - a) There is a “when” and a “where” of worship (Matt. 2:11; Jn. 12:20; Jn. 9:38; Lk. 24:52)
 - 2) Worship is *not* just an attitude (feeling) of the heart, nor is it just an all-encompassing idea that embraces every activity of life (not distinguishing personal life and worship to God)
 - a) “All of life is worship” advocates often promote informal services with pep-rally atmosphere, eating common meals, and expanded roles for women
 - b) We serve God every day, but not every activity of service is “worship”
 - 3) Worship must first and foremost give glory to God, not the creature (Rom. 1:25)
 - a) We must be careful to do only what God has commanded (1 Sam. 15:22; Matt. 15:9)
 - b) Growing disdain for “pattern authority,” “pattern worship”; if no pattern, no perversion!
- B) True worship involves particular actions at specific places and times (when and where)
 - 1) The local church assembled to engage in worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:18, 20; 14:19, 23, 28, 35)
 - a) Acts of worship: *Lord’s Supper, singing, prayer, preaching/teaching, giving*
 - 2) Assembly of the church necessary for congregational singing (Eph. 5:19), common collection (1 Cor. 16:2), and shared communion of Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:20, 26)
 - a) First day of week assembly of the church specified for collection and Lord’s Supper
 - 3) Prayer, preaching, and singing can also be done by individuals outside assembly (Acts 16:25; Acts 18:26; 20:20)

II) **Preaching/Teaching**

- A) ***Preaching/Teaching*** is a critically needed in life and worship of a Christian (Matt. 28:20)
- B) Work in the early church (Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 4:6, 11; 2 Tim. 4:2, 5)
 - 1) Saints need to hear the gospel and be edified in it (Rom. 1:15; Acts 20:32)
 - 2) Class study (age, gender divisions) is an expedient method of ***teaching*** within the church
- C) Done in assembled worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14:19, 26)
 - 1) Exhortation, stirring up to love and good works among the saints (Heb. 10:24-25)
 - 2) Sinners hear the truth and are convinced to obey it (1 Cor. 14:23-25)
- D) Those who preach/teach must give total and best effort to the glory of God (2 Tim. 4:2)
 - 1) Must be faithful to the inspired word of God with love for God and souls of men
- E) Those who hear must give a full, diligent effort to learn and grow in Christ (Acts 10:33)
 - 1) Not seek to be entertained, not a “creed rehearsal” or social hour
 - 2) To not give attention to what is preached/taught is disrespectful to God and speaker

Conclusion

Worship is a very important matter for every Christian. May the preaching/teaching done in worship glorify God, save souls, and cause growth and unity among those in the church of Christ.