

## TRUE WORSHIP (II): *PRAAYER*

### Introduction

- 1) **John 4:24** – True worship unto God *must be* “in spirit and truth”
- 2) True and acceptable worship must be according to the will of God
  - a) God is our true audience – “for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (v. 23)
- 3) **Prayer** is an intensely personal act of worship shared by those assembled to worship God
  - a) Moments of prayer require the solemnity that our worship should be characterized with
  - b) We must develop a greater consciousness of God and His **presence** (Psa. 95:1-7)
- 4) Let’s give careful attention to our worship and the solemn attitude that we should maintain

### I) **The “Holy Ground” of God’s Presence**

- A) **Exodus 3:1-6** – Moses stood upon “holy ground” – first there was curiosity, then fear
  - 1) Made “holy” (sanctified, set apart) by the presence of God at that specific time and place
  - 2) Necessitated a solemn and careful drawing near unto God, the Creator and Lord
    - a) Requires a concentrated and serious attitude centered on God and His awesomeness
- B) A comprehension of God’s presence will help us fear God and prepare our hearts
  - 1) Exodus 19:9-19; 20:18-21; Isaiah 6:1-5 – see ourselves as we truly are
  - 2) God is watching! He is an eyewitness of our worship unto Him – must take it seriously
- C) Modern “contemporary” worship styles reflect casual attitudes toward God’s presence
  - 1) “What-will-it-do-for-me” focus instead of centering our worship upon God
  - 2) Intentional casual dressing to encourage a “relaxed” atmosphere
  - 3) Divine authority set aside to be stylish, trendy, and attractive to worldly outsiders
  - 4) Appeal to the carnal, secular desires = non-offensive preaching, emotionalism, entertainment (modern music, drama, comedy, food), modern and relevant themes, emphasis on social interaction: clubs, ball teams, youth events, etc.
  - 5) Becomes a mishmash of doctrines and practices designed by and for men (Matt. 15:8-9)

### II) **Prayer**

- A) Prayer is a vital and important act of worship (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:8 – lead by holy men)
  - 1) Prayers, along with singing, the Lord’s Supper, and the contribution, are *not* “warm-ups” to the preaching – all are to be given *equal* importance as we worship
- B) Prayer is a privilege and responsibility (Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Heb. 4:16)
  - 1) Each of us can use more instruction in prayer (Lk. 11:1); not ask “amiss” (Jas. 4:3)
    - a) Not lack faith, humility, reverence, obedience, sincerity, submission, thankfulness, etc.
- C) Prayers are an important part of worship in the assembly (1 Cor. 14:13-16)
  - 1) Continuation of a daily life of prayer (1 Thess. 5:17)
  - 2) One leads a prayer on behalf of all who have gathered – speak concerns of *all* to God
    - a) Pray with proper words and sufficient volume so that all understand and say “Amen”
  - 3) Focus prayer to the occasion and/or need (cf. Acts 4:23-30; 12:5)
    - a) Lord’s Supper, contribution, Bible class; world events, brotherhood, sicknesses, etc.
  - 4) All saints are to pray along with one leading prayer – *one* prayer from *many* minds to God
  - 5) Concentration of all should be on the highest level to minimize distracted thinking – time of quietness out of respect to others and reverence toward God

### Conclusion

Worship is a very important time for every Christian. We approach God, as it were, on “holy ground” – concentration must be totally on God, not ourselves. Public **prayers** in worship combine our minds in spiritual union as we approach the throne of God. May each one of us contribute to the solemnity and holiness of the occasion when we gather together to worship our God!