

## TRUE WORSHIP (III): *GIVING*

### 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) Our *giving* is an important act of worship when we assemble together
  - a) Part of our “togetherness” in worship (as are all the other acts of worship)
- 4) Let’s give careful attention to our worship and our “togetherness” in that worship to God

### I) **The “Togetherness” of Our Worship Assemblies**

- A) **Hebrews 10:25** – “not forsaking the *assembling of ourselves together*”
  - 1) *Episunagoge* (Gk.) – a gathering together (*suerchomai* 1 Cor. 14:23, to come together)
- B) Worship is to be accomplished “together” – physically, spiritually, mentally (1 Cor. 1:10)
  - 1) Same activity, purpose, desire, goal – unite in love for God and one another
  - 2) Can be together in the same building, but not be “together” in spirit (1 Jn. 4:20-21)
  - 3) God is not fooled – our worship must be both personal and in unison with brethren
  - 4) No church has perfect members, but we love, support, help, pray, forgive, study, grow, etc.
- C) “Togetherness” of our worship
  - 1) Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
  - 2) Prayer (1 Cor. 14:16)
  - 3) Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:17-21)
  - 4) Preaching/Teaching (1 Tim. 4:6)
  - 5) Giving (1 Cor. 16:2 – “let each one (*singular*) of you (*plural*)” – individuals acting together)
- D) Decent and orderly worship results from all following same divine pattern (1 Cor. 14:33, 40)
  - 1) Failure to be together hinders worship – forsaking worship, preeminence, murmurers, non-involvers, partiality, etc. (cf. Jas. 2:1-9)

### II) **Giving**

- A) “Giving” is a fundamental act of righteousness before God (Acts 20:35)
  - 1) Jesus taught the principle of giving (Matt. 5:42; 10:8; 19:21; Lk. 12:33)
  - 2) God is the ultimate Giver (Acts 17:25; Jn. 6:51) – our perfect example! (Eph. 5:2)
- B) Our giving (the contribution) is an important act of worship unto God (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
  - 1) Divine pattern for collecting funds necessary to carry out the work of the local church
  - 2) Instruction given by apostolic authority – “given orders to the churches”
  - 3) To be done “on the first day of the week” (first day of “every week” NASV, NIV)
  - 4) “Let each one of you lay something aside” – amount is personal individual decision
    - a) Ruling principle – “as he may prosper” (OT tithing not part of new covenant)
    - b) Adjust as one’s prospering increases or decreases
    - c) God desires a willing, cheerful, sacrificial attitude (2 Cor. 9:7; Mk. 12:41-44)
  - 5) One common treasury of the church – “no collections when I come”
  - 6) Though specific context is benevolence, pattern of giving applies for all of church’s work
- C) Many spiritual needs pressing upon a local church – *evangelism, edification, benevolence*
  - 1) Necessitates a constant giving to accomplish these ongoing authorized works
  - 2) Each member of local church must examine self, his prospering, and give as commanded
  - 3) Let no one under any circumstance rob God of what is rightfully His (cf. Mal. 3:8)

### Conclusion

We worship and glorify God by giving faithfully to His work from what He has blessed us with. Let us remember to truly accomplish our worship *together* in body and spirit to the glory of our God.