True Worship

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

There were times when God condemned the people of Israel for their solemn assemblies. They came to the temple and offered the sacrifices and went though the motions of worship, so what was wrong? At times they committed sins then came and offered their sacrifices without repenting but for show. Then there were times when they were more concerned with the ceremony and sacrifice that with the one they were supposed to be worshipping. God was not pleased with just an elaborate ceremony, and the offerings, he wanted them to obey his commands and to love him. When a lawyer ask Jesus what was the great commandment in the law he answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:37-39. God wants man to love and walk with him, not just to offer a ritual and sacrifice.

Many people will tell you that they believe in God, but they don't go to church and worship the Lord. They think that because they say that they believe that they will be accepted by the Lord, but this shows an ignorance of the scriptures. In fact these are, in my opinion, at least as bad as they that say that there is no God. In saying that they believe, but live for the flesh and not for the Lord they make mocking God a lifestyle.

Some say that they believe in God and go to church, but live as though they don't believe in God. A person once asked me how anybody could really think that God didn't exist. I said, "Some say that and live that way, but what about the person who says they believe but don't live for the Lord? He thought for a moment and replied, "I suppose that there is no difference." How could such a person worship God? He might go through the motions, but there would be no true worship, just a dry religious rite, with no meaning.

Too many times there is an emphasis on form and ritual but no joy, or spirit in the service.

John 4:22-24, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." As in everything, man has a standard, and God has a standard, and they are very different. The point is that God's way is right and our, man's, is wrong. If we don't worship God according to his truth we are wasting our time. In addition to this if we do not worship in spirit, but settle for a dry, dull, dead form and ritual, we are also

The Lord makes it clear that he accepts those who truly believe and honestly seek to know the Lord and to walk with him. He is not so desperate for people to follow and to worship him that he will accept just anything. Remember he was God before the world was made and before man was created. Cain and Able both worshiped God, but only one was accepted. Able came in faith and gave his best, while Cain went through the motions and figured it was good enough. You and I have to decide which of the two is an example that we want to follow. Go through the motion of worship, or worship in faith and in truth.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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