

## WORSHIP THAT LOOKS TO GOD

*Gospel Advocate, March 2018*

*Noah Icenhour, Mabel, AR*

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Accepting gifts...
  - 1. Reacting appropriately – too big or not big enough.
  - 2. Reacting to adequately express thanks to the giver.
- B. God's Ultimate Gift.
  - 1. Eternal life in Christ, Romans 6:23.
  - 2. We earned death by our choices.
  - 3. We have received life through Jesus on the cross.
  - 4. What should be our appropriate response?
- C. Worship with a convicted heart!
  - 1. But what does that look like today?
  - 2. Contemporary, traditional, instrumental, etc.?

### I. WORSHIP IS FOCUSED ON GOD.

- A. Nothing Above God.
  - 1. Exodus 20:3
    - a. Spouses, significant others, children, family.
    - b. Friends, jobs, hobbies.
    - c. God and only God is worthy of worship.
  - 2. Temptation from Satan, Matthew 4:10.
  - 3. John is commanded to worship God, Revelation 19:10; 22:9.
- B. Not About Me.
  - 1. It is not what we get out of worship – but what we put into it.
    - a. But we should receive something from worship!
    - b. Being together [*to encourage*] – Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16.
  - 2. Worship is a time to honor God, to give Him all glory and praise.
    - a. He is to be our ultimate focus.
    - b. Psalm 29:2, "*Ascribe [Give] to the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in holy array.*"
  - 3. Illustration – conversation with someone "half listening" [distracted].

### II. WORSHIP SUBMITS TO HIS WILL.

- A. Questions About Worship:
  - 1. What are the acts of worship we are to offer to God?
  - 2. Is there any standard?
  - 3. Some suggest no standard – anything goes.
  - 4. Some suggest to worship in a way that best helps you commune and communicate with God.
  - 5. But what is found in Scripture regarding worship?
- B. Holy and Acceptable.
  - 1. Romans 12:1-2
  - 2. Hebrews 12:28-29
  - 3. Based on truth, John 4:23-24.

4. God accepts nothing less.
  - a. Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:1-16.
  - b. Nadab and Abihu, Leviticus 10:1-3.
- C. How Do We Know?
  1. Jesus was given all authority, Matthew 28:18.
  2. The Holy Spirit would guide the apostles, John 16:13; Jude 3.
  3. God's Word is complete and inerrant, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3.
  4. God has revealed His Word to us, 1 Corinthians 2:6-13.
- C. Has God Failed to Reveal to Us How to Worship?
  1. Matthew 26:26-29 – Lord Supper.
  2. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 – giving.
  3. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – prayer.
  4. Acts 20:7, 27; 2 Timothy 4:2 – preaching.
  5. Ephesians 5:19 – singing.
  6. The failure is with us – when we strive to meet our needs.

### **III. WORSHIP FROM THE HEART.**

- A. Our Hearts.
  1. Give God all our time and carry out His will to the last detail..., Mt. 7:21-23.
  2. But, we must still have the right heart.
  3. Psalm 51:14-17
- B. The Right Heart – The Right Actions.
  1. No conflict with worship when in spirit and truth.
  2. Holy and acceptable worship before God begins with the right heart and right actions.