

Our Worship to God II

Last week, I wrote an article for the NEWSLETTER that summarized a sermon I delivered three weeks ago. Our worship to God involves a number of elements that are important to all of us who are in the Lord's church. We sing to praise God and instruct each other, not entertain. In our prayers, we praise God for who He is, thank Him for what He has done in our lives, and petition Him for the things we need and want, knowing He will hear us and answer us in accordance with His will. We preach and teach the truth, not our interpretation of the truth, so that we can know about God and what He expects from us. We are educated, edified, and encouraged by God's word.

On the Sunday following our bilingual service, I brought a second part to the lesson "Our Worship to God." It involved two additional things we do in our worship, two elements of worship that I personally feel are the two most important.

First was fellowship, and in order to understand what Christian fellowship is, we look to the Scripture for examples. On the day of Pentecost, thousands heard the truth as it was preached by Peter and John and responded by being baptized. They received the gift of God's Spirit and were added to the church. The impact of all this on them was immediate and tremendous. **Acts 2:42-47** says that they "**devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**" Together. They grew together, they ate together, they shared with each other. They all had a common bond and found strength in being together as much as possible. Although they were from different nationalities, different races, different backgrounds, and different life experiences, they were family. And they craved each other's company. Jesus said in **John 13:35**: "**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

The most important element of worship is central to our relationship to God and each other. Partaking of the Lord's Supper, the communion, is commanded of us as Christians. Jesus set the example in **Matthew 26:26-29**:

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Paul reminded the Corinthian church of this in **I Corinthians 11** and adds in **verse 26**: "**...whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim**

the Lord's death until he comes.”

In our service, we are to focus on the sacrifice that not only established the church but that assures us of a reward in heaven if we are washed in the blood that is symbolized by the fruit of the vine of the communion. How often should we partake? In **Acts 2**, the Christians “**devoted themselves to the breaking of bread**” and met daily. In **Acts 20**, it is the church at Troas that came together on the first day of each week to partake of the memorial. We in the Lord's church follow that example. In eating the bread and drinking the fruit of the vine, we memorialize the death of our Lord and Savior. The thought of His death should be the only thing we think about in our services, especially during communion. In order to partake in a worthy manner, Paul says in **1 Corinthians 11**, we should “**examine ourselves**” and “**discern the body of Christ.**” In the eating of the bread and the drinking of the fruit of the vine, Paul says, we “**proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**”

Singing, praying, bible study, fellowshiping, and communion; all essential elements in our worship to God. And ALL of which should be done as often as possible WITH the family of believers.