

Our Worship to God

Three weeks ago, I began a two-part lesson entitled “Our Worship to God.” In the first part of the lesson, we looked together at a number of elements in our worship and just exactly why we incorporate them into our public meetings together as a church. As a body of believers, our aim is to serve God in an acceptable way. We, as a family, are to devote ourselves to a common cause – teaching others about God and what He expects of us, praising Him because of the God He is, and encouraging each other to “stick together” in a world full of sin.

We sing in our worship in order to praise God and to teach and encourage others. In Ephesians 5, verse 19, Paul says that we should “speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.” We are to “sing and make music in (our) hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” In Colossians 3:16, we are told to “teach and admonish one another” with our singing. We don’t sing to entertain each other. We sing to inform one another and show our gratitude to God. By singing in our assembly, we are edified, educated, and uplifted.

We pray together in our worship in a way that praises God, makes our requests to Him, and thanks Him for all we are and have. Philippians 4:6ff, Paul says that by doing this, by praying in this way, we will develop peace in our hearts, knowing we have left everything in God's hands. We are able to approach God with confidence that everything will be done in accordance with His will for us. We are instructed in Jesus' model prayer in Matthew 6:10-13 to pray that His will be done on earth, that He will provide for our daily needs, that He will aid us in forgiving others, and that He will protect us from Satan and his trickery. We are to devote ourselves to this type of prayer, Paul says in Colossians 4:2, and in numerous other verses, we are told to “be faithful in prayer,” “pray continually,” and constantly “present our requests to God.”

Our teaching and preaching in the worship service is designed to educate, encourage, and edify. We will never know all there is to know what God expects of us. The important thing about Bible study, whether it be individual, in classes, or from the pulpit in the assembly, is SUBSTANCE, not style. Our duty to God is to take advantage of every opportunity that we have to hear the word of God discussed or proclaimed. This is why we as a body of believers meet for study on Sunday morning and Wednesday night and for sermons on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. The gospel has the power to save and maintain our salvation. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2ff to use God's word to “correct, rebuke, and encourage....with careful instruction.” We will never learn all there is to know about God, but we should take every opportunity to hear and learn all that we can.

Last Sunday, September 7, the lesson from the pulpit was concerning two other elements of worship, fellowship and the Lord's Supper. I feel that both of them are perhaps the most important things that we as a family of God do. Next week, in this NEWSLETTER, we’ll take a close look at them together.