

Worship God's Way, Not Ours

By Brad Harrub

You have said time and time again that you don't have a problem with people being spiritual, but you just do not have time for organized religion. In fact, you have on several occasions ridiculed the idea of gathering together in a church building to worship God. You indicated that if God really existed, it would make more sense to "worship" that God outside in nature—instead of putting on uncomfortable clothes and coming together in a stuffy building with fake Ficus trees and an old fashioned pulpit. There is a loving God who created us and deserves our worship.

When Paul was talking about evidence for God one of the statements he made was this: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Notice Paul was using God's creation as part of his evidence that God exists. Basically Paul is saying this: "If you want proof that God exists, then go outside and look around." Everywhere you turn you will see evidence of design and complexity. Go outside for evidence, yes! But what we are talking about today is worshipping our Creator. Examining the evidence for God is different from worshipping Him.

The real issue at hand is not whether we worship God inside a building or outside on top of a mountain. The real issue is: Are you willing to humble yourself and actually do what HE wants? See, worshipping God is not about you, what you think, or how it makes you feel. Read that again, because most people have a hard time with that. They have been raised to think that everything is about them, and far too often they bring this selfish idea into worship. But worship is about God and for God.

Thankfully God has told us—through His inspired Word—exactly what our worship to Him should look like. In the New Testament we find 5 different acts of worship that God commands us to do. Each one of these is commanded, so again the question remains: Will you humble yourself enough to do what God instructs? Allow me to give a brief description of each of these five acts of worship:

Prayer

Multiple times in the New Testament, we find passages emphasizing the importance of prayer, not just in our own spiritual life, but also as an act of worship. In 1 Timothy 2:8, we find Paul telling us, "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." In 1 John 5:14, John tells us, "Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." Prayer is the way in which we talk to our Heavenly Father. Just as prayer is an important part of our everyday life, it's an incredibly important part of our worship to God.

Singing

Using our voices to praise God in song is an integral part of our worship to Him. Colossians 3:16 tells us, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Instruments were used in the Old Testament by the Israelites primarily in the temple. After the temple was destroyed, we have no record of followers of God using instrumental music until the 7th or 8th century A.D. Out of the 27 books in the New Testament, not a single one of them references any kind of musical instrument being used in worship to God.

A verse to remember is Ephesians 5:19-20. Writing to Christians, Paul says, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." God commands us to sing with our voices and make melody in our hearts.

Teaching

In Acts 20:7, we find that the disciples of Christ met together on the first day of the week and Paul spoke to them a message. Paul's message was probably similar to what you and I call sermons. A sermon or a lesson in worship services serves several purposes. First of all, it edifies the members. After a week of living in the world and in the secular workforce, it's refreshing to hear a portion of God's word taught to you and in many cases it motivates Christians for the upcoming week. Secondly, it can simply teach. Finally, a lesson can be used to convict its members of sin in their lives. All 3 of these purposes are reasons why a sermon or an evangelical lesson is commanded for Christians to take part in during worship service.

The Lord's Supper

In each of the Gospel accounts, right before His crucifixion, Jesus partakes in the Lord's Supper with his apostles and when he does so, he says, "Do this in remembrance of me." The Lord's Supper is a time in which we fulfill this command given to us by Jesus. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 gives us a detailed description of what the Lord supper is and verses 30-32 inform us that it should be a time of self-examination. A time where we focus on what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Contribution

Giving is also an important part of worship. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 instructs Christians to lay aside something on the first day of the week. 2 Corinthians 9:7 tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. We give not because God needs something—because He certainly doesn't. But rather we give to further His kingdom and give Him glory.

I heard what you said regarding "organized worship." But have you honestly humbled yourself enough to consider what God specified about worship? Because again, it's not about you—it's about Him.

Things you should know about...

We are sending donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you'd like to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of December.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jerry Thompson 12/18

Lois Ferris 1/12

Macy Bang 1/17

Rena Morgan 12/24

Rhonda Gaynor 1/15

Gage Thompson 1/17

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Happy Anniversary!

Duane & Carol Kemp 12/24

Owen & Linda Whittington 12/30

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Men's meeting after AM services today

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No Sunday evening services next weekend, December 24th

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*Ladies Bible Study - The Crown
Wednesday, January 10th @ 7pm*

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Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	December 17, 2023 AM	December 17, 2023 PM	December 24, 2023 AM
Greeter	Dustin Desarro	Rick Ferris	Tom Muter
Announcements	Tom Muter	Tim Bang	Duane Kemp
Song Leading	Mike Illinik		Jason Bang
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Tim Bang	Tom Muter	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Duane Kemp	Tim Bang	Jerry Thompson
Scripture Reading	Seth Arrell	Jerry Thompson	Rick Ferris
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Jerry Thompson	Duane Kemp	Seth Arrell

This week's Bible Verse

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:42



Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Bible Studies currently being held
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement & health concerns/upcoming dr appts
- *Rena Morgan - encouragement & health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health issues
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & comfort, also keep Doreen in prayer
- *Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend, Jim) - health, transitioning being back home
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health - prostate cancer
- *Lynn Thompson - health
- *Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - waiting for PET scan results, energy
- *Christina Gilland (friend of the Ferris') - recovering from surgery
- *Josh Bang (Jason Bang's cousin) - stress related health issues and caring for wife/family
- *Tony Hembrook (Stephanie Bang's bro-in-law) - recovering from surgery on tendons in his foot
- *Pamela Illinick - Stage 4 Kidney failure
- *Kecia Carney and Kacie Anderson (friends of Carla Patrick) - grieving the loss of their husband/father
- *Carl & Abby Daniels (family of Laura McGiffin) - aging/health
- *Connie Foght (friend of Kemp's) - recently lost her husband and mother
- *Connie Able (sister in Christ from Columbus area) - cancer, in hospital
- *Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell's nephew) - health issues
- *Brendan Fenton (Michelle Buckingham's nephew) - having nasal surgery 12/19
- *Aubri Haguewood (Bang's granddaughter) - having dizzy spells & headaches, has upcoming tests & dr appts

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.



Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, December 10		Wednesday, December 13	
Bible Classes	27	Bible Classes	
AM Attendance	36	Contribution	\$1,210.00
PM Attendance			



GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

December 17, 2023

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.