

“COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP”

If you have been around the Christian world long enough, you most likely remember the song that the words of the title of this essay come from. It is a song that was written by Brian Doerksen “way back” in 2008. The lyrics of the chorus of the song are very simple. They state as follows:

*“Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come”*

Many of us “old time” Christians most likely remember this song. It is a simple tune that allowed many to simply enter into worship with. However, the words of this simple chorus and of its lyrics resound and should be employed by every Christian in this hour, in this day. I know there are other songs whose words are simplistic and straight forward just as this one. However, I simply chose this song just as an example of the simply, simple worship that is necessary for all believers to enter into in this hour.

I know that we are all experiencing, in many different ways, the pandemic that has gripped our world in this hour. We do not know when there will be a vaccine for the virus that has gripped our world. Whether you believe all the hype that has surrounded this virus, or not, is not the issue. The main issue is whether or not you truly are a believer in Christ and a true worshipper of the one and only living God.

As this song suggests, “*Come, now is the time to worship.*” I know the song states that we are to give our heart, to come “*just as we are*” and to come before our God and worship. But what does that truly mean? What does that mean to the believer in Christ? What does that mean to the true believer in the one and only true God? Well, it seems quite simple to me. It is an invitation to “come” and worship the Lord our God – “now.”

So what does this mean? Does it mean that we should simply stop everything and start singing music and songs that worship our God for who He is? Well, I believe that it is part of it. However, I believe there is much, much more to worshipping God than simply singing songs and playing music. Unfortunately, that has what it has become. So what is worship – truly.

As the word “worship” suggests in its simple definition, we see that it does not include music or song or any such thing. In the original Hebrew definition we see that the original word for the worship of our God is found in Genesis 22:1 when Abraham and Isaac went to “worship” their God. We see that the original word for worship is “*shachah.*” It is a “prime root” word which simply means “to bow down and prostrate oneself in homage before one who is superior to you.” That seems pretty simple now doesn’t it?

In the Greek, the word “worship” comes from the word, “*proskyneō*” which literally means “to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand; to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):—worship.” Again, it relates to someone who is greater than you.

In both the Hebrew and Greek, in their simple forms, the word that we translate into “worship” which is found within our Bible has not much to do with music, song or dance. It has not much to do with anything but having the correct attitude of heart which acknowledges one who is greater than you and is the One totally in charge of everything you have and everything you do.

Over the years we have made our “worship” into forms of worship that have been expressed in many different ways. These are all wonderful. I don’t have a problem with them. However, in many instances we have made these ways that we worship the Lord the primary way of worshipping Him. We have made song, dance and other similar ways of worship to take the “spotlight.” However, as we can see from the original definitions is that “worship” really comes down to being in and having a true attitude of heart that acknowledges God simply for who He is. We must remember that an attitude of the heart is just that – an attitude of the heart. It is the heart of the individual that matters most to the Lord.

God doesn’t necessarily hear the quality of our worship but rather He is tuned into the heart of the true worshipper. He knows when someone is truly worshipping Him or when they are simply putting on a “show” of worship. We see this throughout the scriptures. We see how someone could have a “name” of being a worshipper or true believer of the Lord, however, we find out that they are not a true believer or they are not a true worshipper of the Lord. We read in the scriptures how many of the kings of Judah started out as worshippers but fell into old patterns or followed ways of worship that all the others were doing. Unfortunately, they entered into these ways only to find out that as they did, they were not the Lord’s way in which He neither desired to be worshiped nor called His people to worship Him.

We see this happening in today’s Body of Christ. We are so quick to enter into something new. We are so quick to do the newest song or we are so quick to change from one thing to another in the worship of our God. We have a tendency to believe that the ways that we see in the scriptures are out dated and useless so we enter into “new ways” of worshipping God only to find some new other way in a few weeks or months. Is God and His ways changing that fast? Is He changing His mind ever so much?

We must remember and always be reminded that true worship is having the correct attitude of the heart. It is not so much what we do but how and why we are doing it. We must remember that true worship is heart to heart – God’s heart delivering His love to each of us and then we, as recipients of His love, pouring it back unto Him. It is not so much as what we do or how we do it but rather it is all about why we are doing what we are doing. The purpose must be all about Him. That is why we do what we do. That is why we worship Him.

I believe that God is not changing His mind or His ways as fast as we are making Him out to be. I believe that His Word is simply coming to pass. The time of the “end times” is here and God’s Word is coming to pass. The key to it all is that “His Word is coming to pass.” He is not nor neither does He ever change His Word. His Word is the same yesterday, today and forever. Yes, it always is the same.

Now, I know there are many who believe that they can change God’s mind. I do believe that God will hold off for a while on His plans but ultimately, as we see throughout His Word, His infinitely perfect plan for the salvation of His people shall come to pass. Sometimes, we see Him hold off His plans as we saw with the children of Israel during their time in the desert and in the wilderness with Moses.

If we look closely and read very carefully we will see that God’s plans had never changed. The generation that came out of Egypt would not enter the Promised Land. The next generation would. God had told Moses this but it took Moses time to see it. We see that Moses actually did not enter into the Promised Land, himself, because of his failure of obeying and trust in the ways of the Lord. God simply held off a while until Moses finally saw the way things were and then He proceeded with His plans. Hmmm....

I am saying all of this to simply say that God has a plan. He opens it up to those who would have ears to hear and He opens it up in His time. Yes, we have His Word to steer us and lead us. His Word will let us know that things are coming or when things are near. However, the main focus of His Word is for and to the individual's life and lifestyle.

Each one of us needs to be ready for whenever the Lord comes for us. He may come for us individually when each of us dies or He may come for us all on "that day." We must always remember that God and His plans have an individual purpose – His purpose. However, His purposes always are for the benefit of not simply Himself, but they are for the benefit of each of us, as well as for the entire Body of Christ.

Yes, we are to read and grasp His scriptures and follow them through as they prophetically come to pass. His Word does indeed give us glimpses of what is to come at the end time. However, that is not the main purpose of His Word.

The main purpose of His Word is to show us and tell us how to live our lives as people of the Most High God. His Word allows every individual who reads it, the opportunity to now live their lives as children of the Most High God. His Word simply tells us and prepares us for what is to come. However, the primary purpose of His Word is show us and reveal to each of us how we are to live as children of the Most High God as we wait for His return.

The Old Testament shows us time and time again the failure of those individuals who tried to live their lives unto God but always fell short. It reveals the failure of man in trying to live a holy, Godlike lifestyle on and in their own way. There were those that tried but they never made it. The Old Testament reveals man's need for God and a Savior that will save each of us from falling short before a holy God.

The New Testament reveals ***the*** way for man to get out of His mess. The "way" is found in and through Jesus, who is the Christ – mans' ultimate Savior and redeemer. It reveals to each and every one of us that the only way that any person can achieve salvation is in simply believing and accepting Jesus as their absolute, supreme and final authority - their personal Lord and ultimate Savior.

Once an individual receives Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, it then becomes that person's responsibility to live a lifestyle that is truly worthy of and emblematic of that relationship. It becomes the responsibility of that individual to now live as Jesus lived and to bring others into relationship with Jesus.

As every person lives their life as a servant of the Lord; as joint-heirs along with Jesus to the Kingdom; as now "sons" of the Most High God – it becomes their personal responsibility to make Him their personal Lord and Savior – fully. It becomes time for those that truly are allowing Him to be their absolute, supreme and final authority to enter into full time worship of Him. I do not mean simply singing or making music or dancing. What I do mean is that every true believer is to live their lives with the utmost integrity, honor and distinction in pointing everyone they can unto the Lord. I am talking about each of us, as believers, to bow down and prostrate ourselves in homage before the One who is the superior to all of us.

Now is the time for true, unadulterated and pure worship. Now is the time to give Him your heart – totally. Now is the time to come just as we are to simply worship the one and only true Living God. Now is the time to not simply worship Him in song or in dance but with everything we do and everything we are. Now is the time to worship our God with every breath we breathe. Now is the time to worship Him in and with our total Spirit. Now is the time to worship Him in, by and through His absolute, unadulterated truth. Come, now is the time to worship. Come.