

NOW IS THE TIME FOR TRUE WORSHIP!!!

The “art” true worship these days is being lost. There, I said it. I know that is a difficult pill to swallow. “True worship” as we know it has gone by the wayside. We are all caught up in the things of this world. We are all caught up in things dealing

with the covid-19 virus. We are all caught up in the social climate of the times. Things are going very swift. It seems as if no one is truly at peace with themselves anymore.

What am I speaking about? I am speaking very simply about worship. Worship is what and where we are to place our life’s value in. It is where we get our true identity from. Worship, how we worship and who we worship, are all being lost in the shuffle today. Worship these days has been centered on gross injustices and horrendous inconsistencies within our social system. However, is that where our worship needs to be?

Let’s go back to the definition of worship. The first time the word “worship” is found in the Bible is in Genesis 22:5. It is used by Abraham as he expresses what he desires to do unto his God along with his son Isaac. The Hebrew word used is “*shachah*” which means to “bow down or to prostrate before.” Worship in the Old Testament was always a verb. It was always used as an expression of great love or admiration towards a deity – God or any other thing that expressed themselves as a god. So where does our worship fall in line with the worship that is happening throughout the world these days.

Worship has seemed to evolve into something very different these days. I believe that is a direct attack orchestrated and designed by the enemy, the forces of darkness, that have surrounded us in this time period. Things seemed to have changed so very rapidly. The concept of worship has changed so fast over the past few years and even over these past few months.

Ministries have gotten into the aspect of “today’s thinking” and “today’s doing.” We must realize that the true worship of our God has not changed over the thousands of years since we first saw God come on the scene as found in Genesis 1. He is the same God. He has not changed. That same God promised salvation to a lost people. That same God sent that salvation through His Son, Jesus and that same God will bring eternal salvation to all those who follow Him and believe in His Son, Jesus. Nothing has changed that.

Our salvation comes only in and through Jesus. Therefore, we must continue to look at and worship towards the only One who we are to totally worship – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We are to worship God and God alone. We are to “bow down and to prostrate ourselves” before the Lord and Him alone.

In this hour and in this time we seem to be looking for God but yet we are looking for Him in all the wrong places. We are placing our trust in things we see. We are depositing our faith in people who are telling us which way to go and what to do – both in the natural as well as in the “so called” spiritual realm. However, I believe we are in the timing of God that we are to stop looking and trying to hear from different people. We are in a time where we must stop and turn towards Him and Him alone by ourselves and ourselves alone.

We are to simply trust in Him. We are to simply trust in His Word. We are to deposit all that we are in who He is and what His Word so clearly tells us is happening. We can see it coming to pass. His Word is coming to pass. Unfortunately, His Word is not enough for us today. We need to and we yearn to listen to others who are in our spheres of influence or who line up with our way of thinking. Ultimately, that is not what we need to do.

We are to stop listening to all those who seem to have a “voice” in this hour. We must stop and turn towards the One who has all of the truth for us in this hour. There are so many different voices telling us so many different things these days.

If you are truly born again and Jesus is your Lord and Savior, then He must be the only one we are to turn towards. There are so many different voices that are proclaiming what the “good news” is for this hour. However, I believe the only “Good News” is found in the saving blood of Jesus that flowed two thousand years ago. His Word, His Spirit, His love is what we are to walk in this hour.

I mentioned “worship” earlier in this article. We must return to a heart of worship that truly is worship. We must all, or those that truly do call on His Name, turn towards Him and begin to truly worship Him. We must worship Him for who He is.

I have been a worship leader for most of my life. That spans a good 45 years. I have never seen worship in such a perverted way. Now, I do not want to put it all under that particular category. There are a few people or teams that are truly worshipping the Lord. The majority, however, are simply playing under a music title or are simply playing to “another group of listeners” that call themselves “Christian.”

If we have heard the voice of the Lord over the past few years we would truly be aware of this. We have heard warnings of this coming to pass. Well, now that it is here what are we doing about it? Nothing; we are doing nothing about it. We are simply flowing into that stream of worship that leads really – to nowhere.

What do I mean? Well, it is quite simple. It leads to nowhere and nowhere is “nowhere.” It is just “Christian music” and it leads us to - nowhere. That may seem a little harsh but yet it is very true. We have seen music and the arts flow in a very steady but yet very different direction. I am not speaking about style or the kind of music we are hearing but I am speaking about the content of the music. It seems all very generic and unfortunately, it has mutated to sound the same as other types of music.

Now, let’s be clear in this aspect. I am not only speaking about worship in terms of music but I am also speaking in terms of worship as simply being – well, worship as in our original definition of worship as found in the Genesis 22:5. Worship is basically, and it is simply a form of “bowing down and laying prostrate” before our God. Wow, when was the last time we simply “bowed down and laid prostrate” before our God. When was the last time we did this while we were alone, by ourselves or even with a group of people?

Today, worship has become a full time “congregational” past time. It is done in almost every church. There, is a set time in the beginning of every service where we have a music team or music group get up and begin the service with some music. Then we go into our offering, then the message and then the altar call. That is basically our service. Sometimes we have the music go for hours and we have what we call a “time of worship.” However, is that what worship is? Is it simply a time when the music starts and then it is finished as the last note is played. No it isn’t!!!

Worship does not really have much to do with music or anything else we may do. Yes, there is a time when there can be music as a part of our worship if it is truly the time that music is to be played and it is the time that we use it as a portion of our worship. However, worship, true worship, is and comes from the correct attitude of heart. Worship is the “attitude of the heart.” It is truly where we live. It is truly where we breathe. It is truly who we are.

We have, over the years, downgraded what worship is. We have made it into a time of great music and great singing. It began with the great songs and compositions that that we have heard over the past few hundred years. We have made worship into simply an act of music and song in today's culture. However, in its original state, we see that "worship" was simply an attitude of the heart. An attitude of the heart that simply honored and worshiped the One the original fathers of our faith truly worshipped.

We see in the first mention of the term "worship" as it was found in Genesis 22:5. Abraham and Isaac went up to the mountain. They bowed before and prostrated themselves before the "Living God." They really didn't even have an offering with them. Isaac mentioned to his father about bringing an offering to give to the Lord but his father, Abraham, told him that God would provide the offering that He would want.

When the time came, Abraham was ready to offer up his own son. Wow!! Let's take a moment and dwell on that one. There they were, Abraham and his only begotten son, Isaac. Abraham was willing to offer up his only son to God. And Isaac laid down for Abraham to do it. Yet, God had something else in mind. God had planned another sacrifice. He had it come to pass just as Abraham was about to offer his own son. This, we know was a picture of what Jesus would do for each of us one day.

Jesus did do this – for all those who accept Him and what He did on the cross for each of us. Yes, He did it for of those who chose Him to be their Lord. He became the willing sacrifice. He became the perfect offering of true worship that God would only truly accept. Unfortunately, after all these years, many have forgotten what He had truly accomplished. Many of us have truly forgotten what we did for us over two thousand years ago.

We must remember. We must bring it back up to the forefront of what we somehow call our faith in these final days. Jesus was, is and always will be the sacrifice that God enjoys and accepts. He is the only sacrifice that is pleasing to God, the Father, in this hour. Yes, through Jesus we are acceptable to God but we must remember that it is only because of and through Jesus. Anything we do or anything we did was nice and pleasing to the Father but we are only brought back into true relationship with the Father through Jesus.

His Holy Spirit now lives and dwells within each of His believers. We are to worship him now as He was truly meant to be worshiped. Yes, it is nice to move ahead in many things. However, with our God, the momentum is to move forward by looking back and learning what we are told in the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, concerning being in relationship with our God.

Worship isn't simply playing are singing music unto the Lord. It has become that in a most extraordinary way. Actually, it has become over emphasized in these past years. I myself was caught up in it for many years. I believe, it can become very seductive and alluring to the younger group of believers. If we take notice, music and what we call "worship" is being overtaken by the younger generation. I am not saying that it is a bad thing. However, I think we need to take a look at these things and see if they are following along with scriptural teaching.

What I am simply saying is this. Worship must be looked upon as more than music. Unfortunately, in this time and in this hour, that is what it has become. In our services we do have the Word but we are only truly activated and have become captivated by the music we hear. I would dare say that if you gathered together for four Sunday's in a row and did not play any music but simply "bowed down and prostrated yourself" before the Lord, you may see a grumbling begin to take place. First it would be from your music people and then it would begin to infiltrate within many in the congregation. Hmmm...

Again, I am simply stating that we need to begin to take another look at true worship – in our own person life as well as in the congregations we either oversee or are a part of. If the times are a sign of what may be in the wind we may see the Body of Christ as we know it today begin to suddenly change. I believe it will go in two very separate directions. It will become so acceptable and accepted as the norm for what true worship is, that it will force the true believers to go “underground.”

I believe the time is coming very soon for the beginning of the seven year tribulation period. Remember, the first three and half years will be fantastic – and then... Then the antichrist, whoever they may be, will rise up from their fame and position from the first three and half years of good things happening. They will rise up and at the “drop of a hat,” everything will change. All of the end time prophecies will come to pass and the end will come. The first thing that will go is all of the “false worship” that was allowed to continue.

Where and how everything goes and how it all plays out is still yet to be seen - but it will. Yet, here we are. What are we planning for? We have the time now to prepare personally for the time to come. Yes, we need to worship with each other. However, we must begin to really think about what our worship needs to be, personally first, and then with other believers.

Yes, there may be still some wonderful times of corporate worship to come. However, that time will come to an end and it may be happening sooner than we may think. It is time for each of us to begin to truly take our worship to the next level – the level that maybe Abraham had, a personal level. After all, he ultimately “bowed down and became prostrate before the Lord.”