

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Walden David

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#753 Farther Along

#387 Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Scripture Reading by: Cameron Cantu

#853 Amazing Grace

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#881 Mansion Over the Hilltop

Sermon: "When You Come Together"

Psalm 40:6-10

#915 Trust and Obey

#470 Victory in Jesus

Closing Prayer by: Chris Young

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#453 Love Lifted Me

#480 Blessed Assurance

Scripture Reading: Parker Balch

Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

#648 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Sermon: "One Word: Wrath"

Romans 2:5-8

#945 Kneel at the Cross

#851 I'll Fly Away

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

January 27, 2019

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

True Worship

This morning, we are beginning a sermon series on worship – specifically, on the corporate worship of the church in the assembly. We are going to cover the specific activities we participate in and why they are important. More fundamentally, we want to consider what worship is. And with that in mind, there are a couple of important points about the nature of worship that did not make it into our sermon this morning (you don't want me to talk for an hour, do you?). I want us to briefly consider them together here.

First of all, **worship is about God**. That might sound elementary, but I think we forget it sometimes. Scripture shows repeatedly and clearly that worship is to give praise to God. Consider, for example,

Psalm 148:

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon,

praise him, all the shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens.

and you waters above the heavens!

There are numerous other passages we could note. But the point is the application: worship is primarily about God, not about us. Our chief aim in worshipping should be to give glory to God, not to achieve an emotionally uplifting experience or to be entertained. Now, those things aren't bad in themselves. If our emotions are stimulated by worship – if we feel joyous in praising God or if we feel internal turmoil when we think of our sin – that can be a blessing. And God has designed worship so that true worshippers will be blessed by the occasion.

The problem comes when we make that our goal in worship. Then it ceases to be God-centered and becomes human-centered. We are essentially worshipping ourselves instead of God. There are right and wrong motives for worship. If we come seeking personal benefit – even a legitimate one – rather than to honor God, we need to adjust our priorities. Worship is not designed to produce an emotional experience, effect behavioral change, make Christianity attractive to the world, promote church programs, or fill the pews and swell the collection plate, though it may well do any or all of those things as a side effect. These might result from worship, but the purpose of worship is to praise God. We need to understand that individually and as churches.

Our Sick

Joe Edd Stiffemire has double pneumonia and is in Methodist Hospital.

Ronnie Rubit is in the hospital and will be in for several more days.

Minnie Owen, Doyle Owen's mother has been diagnosed with dementia.

Jean Blackburn is having swelling in her legs.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Bill Luncford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale, Phillip Cottle, Kevin Coleman, Tim Watts

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00 pm.

We will be having a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Feb. 5th at 8:00 am.

Movie Night-Chili Cook Off on Saturday, February 2nd.

We'll combine our Movie Night next month with a congregational Chili Cook off at the church grounds. All church members are welcome to participate in the cook off. We'll start at 3:00 PM that afternoon and everyone will have their Chili ready to be judged at 4:45 PM. We'll then all eat at 5:00 PM and start the movie no later than 6:00 PM. We're only asking that at least one person on the team is a member of the church, or if you are an individual by yourself. But everyone is invited to attend the cook-off, dinner and movie; so please invite your friends and family. All at no cost to you !

We are in the process of starting a new church recipe book. Please be thinking of recipes you would like to share. Here is the email address for the recipes: liberty.ladiesministry@aol.com
More details to come.

Communion Preparation: Susan McCain
Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Feb. 3rd: Gloria McKelroy
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Feb. 3rd: Debra Faneros

continued from front page

The other significant point to note is that **worship is a verb**. That means it is something that we do. The Hebrew word most frequently translated as "worship" in the OT is *chawah*, which means "to bow down." *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! (Psalm 95:6)* Both Moses and Job literally bowed or fell to the ground and worshipped, for instance (**Exodus 34:8; Job 1:20**). The emphasis in the NT is similar. The Greek *proskuneo* means "to (fall down and) worship, do obeisance to, prostrate oneself before, do reverence to, welcome respectfully."

This, too, might seem fairly elementary. But some have the idea that worship is merely an attitude or feeling, a subjective experience that might be expressed in any number of ways. But that idea is foreign to Scripture; nowhere is it taught or even implied that worship is merely an attitude. Now, the proper attitude is a critical part of worship; the prophets repeatedly emphasize that God is not pleased with external acts apart from a heart that is right with him (**Isaiah 1:11-20; Micah 6:6-8; Amos 6:1ff**; numerous other passages). But saying that the right attitude is an essential ingredient of worship is not the same as saying it IS worship.

In contrast, Scripture demonstrates that worship is something God's people did, actions they undertook. Abraham went up on the mountain with Isaac to worship (**Genesis 22:1-5**). David went to the house of the Lord to worship after the death of his son (**2 Sam 12:20**). The Ethiopian eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship (**Acts 8:27-28**), and Paul did the same thing (**Acts 24:11**). Actions like prayer, praise, and sacrifice are all expressions of worship mentioned in Scripture. And even offering our bodies as living sacrifices, which Paul calls our *spiritual worship*, is expressed in concrete action: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (Romans 12:1-2)*.

True worship requires more than these two things. But it must include expressions of praise directed toward God.

Adapted from chapter 10 of Dan Chambers' book "Showtime: Worship in the Age of Show Business."

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ