

***Think it through!***

## **Thoughts on ending a sermon or service!**

***One of the most important moments in a worship service is the response time, but often little thought is given to that....***

Here are some ways I have seen or planned or coached. I leave the evaluations to you, but urge you to choose carefully! Surely most admit how important the ministry of the Word is; perhaps we should admit response time is also!

... Sing “Just As I Am” after the sermon, and invite people to come forward.

... “Every head bowed, and every eye closed” (except for the teenagers in the back half of the room) — “Who today admits....”

... A Scripture verse on the screen and confessed by all who will as they stand — a verse that was the theme of the sermon and is an obvious response or confession.

... A hymn or song that is an obvious response to the sermon call, but introduced by the speaker (rather than his just leaving!) to show how it is tied to the talk, as opposed to the guitarist summarizing the sermon in his own words, or adding what he thought the speaker missed!

...A closing prayer after the sermon with quiet time for the reflective prayer of each person, as suggested by the giver of the sermon – related to specifics of the sermon. Or a quiet time and guided prayer to receive the gift of grace from Jesus Christ.

All this as opposed to a one-person prayer that recaps the sermon or adds something the speaker forgot! (“Dear God, I covered a lot today, maybe too much, but....” is one I heard recently.)

...A Scripture-true confession related to the theme of the sermon, followed by an “assurance of pardon” based on Scripture and given with joy by the leader.

...Sermon...short prayer...Amen. Walk off.

...Sermon...short prayer thanking God for the sermon. Amen. “See you next week!”

...Sermon....prayer thanking God for the truths.....opportunity for listeners to thank God personally.... Followed by the offering as a response....Followed by appropriate response hymn or song.

...A really new song that wows performed by the singers and musicians.

