

# **“The Results of Real Worship!”**

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

**Intro.** – A policeman was writing a motorist a ticket for not coming to a complete stop. “Officer, why give me a ticket for that?” “Why not?” said the officer. “Because, although I technically did not stop I did slow down and it’s almost the same.” “But you didn’t stop,” replied the officer, “and the sign says **“stop.”** “But the way was clear and I was putting no one in danger,” replied the motorist. Officer then pulls out his baton and starts hitting the motorist. “What are you doing!” yells the motorist. Officer asked, “Do you want me to slow down or stop?”

So goes the reasoning in our “postmodern” times. The shift in thinking among those who disregard God and His standards is gaining momentum. A fairly recent/credible study found that 56% of Americans believe men/women who live together and have babies out of wedlock should not be subjected to moral reproach. Same study said 70% ages 18-34 think there should be “no judgment and no reproof” for unmarried couples having babies. Today, having baby out of wedlock is done deliberately/publicly and is cause to celebrate...

A. Lincoln gave a speech in New Haven, Connecticut, March 6, 1860. He was tackling a topic everyone else was skirting. The topic was slavery and like the hot topics of today -- abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia.. slavery was THE topic to be skirted by any candidate hoping to win. Yet, Lincoln spoke clearly and repeatedly: “There is no single place, according to you, where this wrong thing can properly be called wrong!”

Moral relativism is just that – living our lives in such a manner that right/truth no longer matter. Everyone becomes a *law* unto themselves. This philosophy is permeating the government, media, schools, and our courts. I’ll illus. what I mean. CBS wanted to do everything it could to make the new evening news with Katie Couric appealing, but its magazine *Watch* went too far in its Sept. 2006 issue...

As a result of such moral relativism, God is not being worshipped. The created is worshipping the created rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25) and the results are self-evident.

But what are the results when the created truly worships the Creator? What can be expected when God’s people come together in His presence to GIVE nothing more/less than authentic worship?

*Purpose: to identify four absolute results coming from real/authentic worship to God*

As we go through this be aware worship is not limited to our coming together each first day of the week... Today, want to look at 4 absolute results when we do practice real worship collectively and individually:

## **I GOD IS GLORIFIED**

### **A. Psalm 50:23**

1. “*He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me...*” (NASB)
2. Illus. – a piano manufacturer tried to get a testimonial from Will Rogers for their pianos. Rogers, who never endorsed a product unless he really believed in it, wrote this letter to the piano firm: “*Dear Sirs: I guess your pianos are the best I ever leaned against. Yours Truly, Will Rogers.*”
3. Illus. – Art dealer was anxious to sell some Gothic tapestries to a renowned art lover, amazed and annoyed his wife when he woke her at 3 AM. After getting her half awake he demanded her to say, “I’ll pay you a million dollars for your Gothic tapestries.” She could see no sense behind this request, why should she offer to buy tapestries from her own husband. “Just say it, please,” he implored. Sleepily she complied, repeated the suggested words, turned over and went back to sleep. At 9 the next morning the dealer, who highly valued integrity told his potential buyer, “I can swear to you that at 3 AM this morning I had an offer of a million dollars.”
4. God desires, and more importantly, He deserves our highest praise and thanks!
5. When you and I lift up Christ through our lives... homes... this church... (when we stimulate one another to love and good works... when we really worship), He is glorified!

### **B. Leviticus 10:3**

1. “*...This is it that the Lord spoke, saying, ‘I will be sanctified in them that come near me, and before all the people I will be glorified...’*”

2. When we worship Him as He is to be worshipped, God is set apart, He is glorified!
  - a. I ask, what can be more important, more exhilarating than glorifying God?
  - b. Illus. – 3 prosperous bros. discussing what they’d done for their elderly mother. 1<sup>st</sup> = built a big house... 2<sup>nd</sup> = sent a Mercedes with a driver... 3<sup>rd</sup> = “Remember how Mom enjoyed reading Bible, but now she can’t see well enough to do so? Well I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. Mom simply has to name the book, chapter and verse and the parrot recites it.” Soon after, their mother sent her letter of thanks: “Milton, the house is too big. I live in but one room and have to clean the whole house.” “Gerald, I’m too old to travel, so I don’t use the Mercedes. Besides, that driver is a pain.” “But Donald, the little chicken you sent – why it was delicious!”

## II CHRISTIANS ARE PURIFIED

### A. Psalm 24:3-4

1. *“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”*
2. A truly worshipping church (spirit and truth) is a pure church...
3. How can I be so sure? Those who truly enter the presence of a holy/righteous God know sin!
  - Isaiah 6:5 *“Woe to me!” I cried, “I am ruined!” For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”*
4. To sense and recognize the presence of a Holy God results in seeking necessary purification...

### B. 1 Peter 1:18-19

1. *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*
2. Only by the blood of X applied... can we ever hope for purity again... Imputed righteousness...

### C. Psalm 139 23-24

1. *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*
2. Part of significance in meeting about Lord’s Table each first day of the week not that we come in “contact” with blood, but that we examine ourselves i.e. come face to face reality need to be pure!
3. Illus. – Teacher was checking her student’s knowledge of Proverbs. “Cleanliness is next to what?” she asked. Little boy replied with earnest feeling, “Impossible!”

When real worship happens, God is glorified and Christians are purified!

## III CHURCH IS EDIFIED

### A. Acts 6:7

1. *“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”*
2. This speaks of the very reason why early church grew – people planted and watered the Word and God gave the increase.

### B. Ephesians 4:16

1. *“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*
2. Note: speaks of the proper working of each individual part = body is healthy/growing when each part is worshipping and serving Him!

### C. Hebrews 10:24-25a

1. *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,”*
2. Not talking about people FEELING better; instead, talking about people LIVING better.

3. As we come in worship together – we are to stimulate, prod, urge each other love/good works
4. Worshipping church is a church that assembles together:
  - a. unlike Sweden where 3% pop. have any church involvement; yet, 95% claim membership = explains why such an “amoral society”
  - b. if absence makes the heart grow fonder, a lot of people must really love the Lord and His Ch!
5. True worship always changes people
  - a. how can anyone come into the presence of God and not be changed?
  - b. if worship doesn’t propel you to greater appreciation, obedience, service then call it what you may, it’s not worship!

#### IV LOST ARE EVANGELIZED

- not suggesting NT evangelism done through assembly... “seeker oriented services” concern me on several fronts... assembly mainly for saints... more interested in “seeker oriented life”..
- something to be said about properly worshipping church and its affect upon the lost..

##### A. Hebrews 10:25

1. “...but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
2. “Day” reference to return of X when no more opportunity for repentance, confession & acceptance
3. We are to encourage each other to worship and serve = that includes winning the lost/evangelizing

##### B. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

1. “But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’”
2. Paraphrase: “Get your worship shaped up and do it the way it ought to be done, the lost who come into your worship time will fall and worship God”
3. Illus. – An elderly lady was being given a tour through a great cathedral in Europe. The guide pointed out the ornate beauty of its design and the wonderful paintings. The lady was unimpressed. At the conclusion of the tour she asked, “How many souls have been saved here this year?” “My lady,” said the embarrassed guide, “this is a cathedral, not a chapel.”
4. I’m persuaded worshipping people will have great impact upon the lost around them!

**Conclusion:** Years ago studies were made among former prisoners of war from US. These studies were conducted to determine what methods were used by the enemy to break them -- physical deprivation... torture etc. But none of these held a candle to the most effect method = solitary confinement – where isolated from all other human contact...

God knew that on our own, we would never survive as His in this world. Why He gave us the church. Also why we can expect the kind of results discussed when real worship takes place in our lives, homes, this church family. We know all too well what results when God is not worshipped... What happens when He is worshipped?: God is glorified, Christians purified, Church edified, Lost will be evangelized!