



The Nature of Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

We must take the holiness of God _____. To be holy means to be set apart for a special and higher _____. We must never treat what is holy as if it were something that was _____. God is not just holy; He is _____ holy. He is _____ of reverence, of awe, and adoration. The Lord's name is so holy that one must never take it in _____. Holiness is the absence of _____ and the presence of righteousness. He is the one and only God of mercy and justice who _____ personally for each of his followers.

There's _____ impure or common about God (1 John 1:5; Habakkuk 1:13). He is holy and perfect, far _____ us (Isaiah 6:1-5). How we _____ God in worship matters greatly. We should not presume that God will _____ whatever we have to offer. God has always distinguished between what He desires and what man _____ up. Just because someone calls something an act of worship doesn't mean that God _____ it. To worship God acceptably we must ask God what He _____ for worship. True worship always thinks of _____ the One Whom we worship, and only God can determine that acceptable worship is. An event in Scriptures concerning the sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, is there, so that we might _____ from it (Leviticus 10:1-3). Ten times Moses had given them instructions, telling them what the Lord _____ them to do. They did just as the Lord commanded until they decided to act on their own _____. God punished them for _____ on their own authority. God has _____ accepted worship that ignores what He instructs and He never has accepted what's invented by man. People are not always interested in what God desires; they think they have something _____ than what God wants. They think they need to do something to tickle the ears or to draw a _____.

When people act on their own initiative they show that their _____ are not right with God, because they have not listened to Him but to men (Matthew 15:6-9). Listening to men rather than to God makes our worship _____. "Self-made" religion or will worship is when people act on their own authority and do not regard what God _____ (Colossians 2:20-23). God doesn't _____ "self-made" religion, because it does not show Him the reverence that He deserves. They may _____ to have value to people, but they have no value to God. People may _____ what they call worship; they may think it draws a great crowd; but forms of worship that ignore God's teaching and originates in the mind of men violate God's will. True worship to God _____ comes from listening to the teaching of God.

True worshipers worship Him in _____ and in truth (John 4:23-24). According to 1 Peter 2:5 _____ Christians are members of a holy priesthood and their place is "to _____ up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." The churches in the New Testament did not have choirs or _____ music. They all sang from their _____ as a congregation. They didn't fall prey to the notion that worship was _____ _____. Worship was how they _____ of themselves to God rather than what they received from others. They didn't think of _____ as an audience or spectators. They came to worship not to see a _____. Early churches did not _____ theatrical performances, light shows, or bands. There's a _____ between worship that comes from the hearts and lips of everyone in the pews and a performance that comes from professionals on a stage (read Hebrews 13:15). Entertainment in and of itself is not _____. But God never intended for a form of entertainment or a performance to _____ the worship of the church. Some assemblies at churches today contain very _____ worship of God and a great deal of show. We now have an entire entertainment industry _____ to Christian praise music.

It's right to remind ourselves in church that we're not the audience. God is! We've met there to _____ Him, and our _____ is to "please Him."

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