



Problems in Worship

Genesis 4:1-5

Worship is a _____ means of expressing our thanks, our love, and our praise for God. Sometimes people offer to God the kind of worship that actually _____ the Lord, worship that He will not _____. Some people are actually surprised that God would _____ their worship. If we learn that we're not pleasing to the Lord, we should humbly _____ from what displeases God to what pleases Him. Today we're going to look into the Scriptures at some _____ people have had in worshipping God acceptably and how we can please God in our worship.

Genesis 4 presents the very first _____ of worship in the Bible. The two brothers, Cain and Abel, came before the Lord with their different _____. "By faith Abel offered to God a _____ sacrifice than Cain, through which he also obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is _____, he still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). God did not have _____ for Cain or for his offering (Genesis 4:4-5). There was something lacking in Cain's _____. God made a distinction between an offering from a righteous and faithful man who wanted to _____ and an offering that was just merely a discharge of duty.

The Bible tells of the rebellious Israelites who gave up on the Lord and Moses and they demanded _____. They began behaving like the idolatrous _____ that surrounded them with drunken dancing that was filled with sensuality. You cannot serve a _____ God with impure behavior. What they thought was worship was actually a great _____ (1 Corinthians 10:6-7).

In Isaiah the prophet's day the people thought that they could worship God acceptably while they willfully lived _____ lives. And after a while God wearied of their sacrifices and feasts _____ of their iniquity (Isaiah 1:15-17). Because they chose to live ungodly lives, God would not _____ their prayers.

The Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount devotes eighteen verses to the _____ of displaying righteousness to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1-18). In Jesus' day, the Pharisees and others were tempted by the flesh to make a _____ out of their worship. The same _____ of thing is happening today. When people become enamored with Christian music stars, they've taken their _____ off of God. Even some _____ today believe their calling is to promote a health and wealth gospel. They _____ blessings that have nothing to do with discipleship to Christ and it has everything to do with the crass materialism of our time. Other preachers believe that their calling is to be stand-up comedians, using the pulpit for their _____. This is _____ the Lord's way. **Read 2 Timothy 4:1-2.** It's the Word, the gospel that _____ (Romans 1:16). It's the Word of Christ that brings _____ (Romans 10:17). It's the Word that nourishes our _____ (1 Peter 2:2). We need the _____ to grow strong and spiritually healthy.

The apostle Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus that savage _____ would come in among them, not sparing the flock. And they will speak twisted or perverse ideas that will draw disciples _____ from the Lord's way. This false teaching will _____ the church, he said (Acts 20:28-32). To follow Christ we must have the _____ and nothing else will do. So Paul warns Timothy in 2 Timothy 4, verses 3 to 5 of the time when churches would _____ strong or healthy teaching about Christ for ear-tickling experiences and myths.

Some churches today have _____ the importance of the Word and have replaced it by preaching comic routines, or having dramatic skits, or self-improvement rallies. "Where is the _____ in all of this?"

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The Lord preached a _____ of repentance, of love, and of salvation (Luke 19:10). Christianity is more than just _____ course in the power of positive thinking.

Some churches today separate their worship services into traditional and contemporary in an effort to _____ everyone. Perhaps they feel that pleasing people is more important than the _____ of the congregation; or perhaps they have bought into a consumer mentality where the customer is always _____. Is pleasing people more important than pleasing _____? God wants His people to be _____ (John 17:20-21). And if we cannot assemble with each other because we have so many different _____ in worship, why we become a house divided against itself.

In some churches women have taken a _____ of leadership in worship that God does not permit (1 Timothy 2:8). Several denominations now have _____ pastors and preachers. Wherever the church meets, God expects _____ to take the lead (1 Timothy 2:11-14). This is the Lord's _____ for His people. Cultural change _____ change the Word of God. The Lord _____ men to take the lead in the worship of the church. To support this, Paul _____ to creation and to the fall of Adam and Eve. Paul uses events from the beginning to show that this is a fundamental _____ for all time and all cultures.

Showing God love and respect in worship requires _____ to God to find out what He desires and requires. If we live life on our _____ and lose sight of the Lord's will for our lives, what makes us think God will accept our worship? The Lord expects us to have our _____ right before Him if we are to approach Him in worship (Matthew 5:23-24). You can't live like the _____ six days a week and expect the Lord to accept you when you approach Him to worship on the first day of the week. God expects His people to _____ when they sin. He expects us to take our sins _____ and to forsake them.

Are you _____ with God? Perhaps today you _____ to establish a relationship with the Lord, because you want to worship and thank Him. To become His child you must have _____ in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, you must _____ of your sins, you must _____ your faith before others, and you must be _____ for the forgiveness of your sins.