

HOW TO MAKE WORSHIP MEANINGFUL

1. Text: Psalm 84:1-4
2. When we come together for worship how can it be more meaningful and beneficial to us?
3. Let's explore the answer.

I. Contemporary Problems With Worship

1. "I didn't get anything out of worship."
2. The worst criticism? It was boring.
3. Much modern worship: Focus on creative, exciting, entertaining, gimmicks, fun, superficial, hoopla.
4. "Spiritual lite"
5. Key: make worship like the world and liked by the world.
6. But is worship even primarily for the outsider?
7. Criticism: Of what? By whom?
8. Competition of true worship with the world and worldly worship
9. Man-centered or God-centered?
 10. The jarring separation

II. The Correct Perspective On Worship

1. Meaningful worship? Where's the blame?
2. Meaningful public worship comes from a constant spiritual walk with God.
3. James D. Bales: "It is my conviction that the basic way to have meaningful worship is to start with a closer walk with God during the week. If we have been living with God, we shall be near Him in the assembly."
4. Worship: a natural extension of a spiritual person.
5. Is corporate worship an extension of or a contradiction and intrusion into the rest of the week?
6. Seven days versus one hour?
7. Formulas: Daily spiritual living plus corporate worship equals fulfillment. Daily worldly living plus corporate worship equals what?
8. Romans 12:1-2 "Living sacrifices"
9. I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.
10. Bible study: It should be pure gold to learn more in public of what we studied in private.
11. Mature Christians I have known:

III. Convicting Passages On Worship

1. Genesis 5:22 Enoch walked with God.
2. Psalm 122:1 I was glad. Match with Psalm One.
3. Psalm 26:8 I have loved your house where your glory dwells.
4. Text: Psalm 84:2 My soul longs for the courts of the Lord. And my flesh cries out for the living God.
5. Isaiah 1:11-17 Empty sacrifices and Holy living.
6. James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Clean your hands, purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Conclusion: Did you bring a full spiritual heart to this worship?

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, June 18, 2006

