

The Reminder

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX

“In Spirit And In Truth”

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24)

These words were spoken by Jesus concerning worship to God. He taught that there would no longer be just one place to worship God (such as Mt. Gerizim or the temple at Jerusalem) but that from the "hour" of the establishment of the New Covenant, the true worshippers of God must worship in a definite way and according to a fixed pattern indicated by this statement of Jesus, "in spirit and in truth."

Worship in Spirit involves doing those acts which please God with the right attitude. It is possible for one to be physically present at a worship service and not be worshipping God because his attitude toward worship may not be correct. Thus, he is not worshipping God in spirit. So it is vitally important that we understand the characteristics of worship that is truly in spirit.

1) worship in spirit must be with understanding. Paul taught this is 1 Corinthians 14:15: "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." To worship with understanding, we must be able to comprehend what is said and done.

2) worship in spirit is orderly. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:33, "God is not the author of confusion..." and later in the same chapter, "Let all things be done decently and in order". We should have an expedient order to our worship services.

3) worship in spirit is reverent or respectful to God. The Psalmist wrote, "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him" (Psalms 89:7). Our manner of worship should reflect our respect for God and other worshippers. We are gathered to worship and praise Almighty God.

4) worship in spirit is sincere and springs from a holy life. We should assemble out of love for our Heavenly Father and a desire to praise Him and commune with Him. David expressed the right attitude in Psalms 122:1: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." The time of our worship should be an occasion of great happiness and joy.

5) worship in spirit must be edifying and without pomp or gimmickry. One major reason we assemble is to "provoke unto love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24). Paul wrote that in our assemblies, "Let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Every act of worship in the assembly should be for praising and glorifying God, as well as edifying or building up the saints. Worship is not for entertainment, satisfaction of the lust of the flesh or self glorification.

Worship in Truth: What does it mean to worship in truth? First, we need to define "truth." Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" The answer to that question is revealed in the prayer of Jesus in John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." So when we speak of the objective truth, the truth of the Bible, we speak of God's Word or His law. The New Testament, the law of Christ, is now in effect and is binding upon all men everywhere today. So the question in regard to this subject is: "What acts of worship does the New Testament authorize for the church to practice in order to worship in truth?" (continued)

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

BELLAIRE

church of Christ

8001 South Rice Ave

P.O. Box 1029

Bellaire, Texas 77402

www.bellairechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship

11:00 AM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 PM Bible Study

GOSPEL MEETING:

November 13, 14, 15

- Fall Singing

- Jeff Wilson - Lessons from Isaiah.



Morning Lesson

"A Compelling Reason:
Jesus the Christ!"
Jack Smith

News and Notes:

Continue praying for those of our number who have on-going health issues. Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn and Don Hurd.

No "new" news about any illness. Many are dealing with allergies, but doing fairly well. Still have two babies that are close to delivering. Keep all the new families in your prayers for health, strength and patience.

Several out of town. Steve and Muffy are still in Colorado. He is concluding a gospel meeting today. They should be home tomorrow. Barbara is due back tonight from her most recent trip. Others will also be traveling. Pray for a safe journey.

A couple of gospel meetings are posted on the bulletin board. Keep them in mind this week.

There are also several Bible study opportunities available tonight. Ask for details.

"In Sprit And In Truth"

(Continued)

1) worship in truth must include the teaching and preaching of God's Word. Acts 20:7 states, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." This is an apostolic example of preaching being in the worship assembly.

2) worship in truth must include giving or laying by in store, as a contribution upon the first day of the week. 1 Corinthians 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." This emphasizes the personal, individual responsibility of each member to give upon the first day of every week a part of that which God has prospered us.

3) worship in truth must include partaking of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross in our behalf. The church at Troas is an example of those who kept this memorial supper upon the first day of the week. Paul even tarried in the city of Troas so that he could observe the Lord's Supper with the church there upon the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7).

4) worship in truth must include prayer. In Acts 2:42 we read where the church at Jerusalem, "...continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

5) worship in truth must include singing. Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

We should point out that two of these acts of worship (giving and the Lord's Supper) are limited to the first day of the week, because this is the only time we find them commanded or practiced by the apostles. However, teaching, praying and singing can be practiced as acts of worship at any time the church is assembled. - Ted Thrasher (edited)

WHO ARE WE?

A group of Gods children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament.

ASSIGNMENTS

Morning Service

Opening Prayer - Z. Kelsey
Hymn Director - M. Robinson
Lords Supper Lesson - L. Williams
Announcements - J. Smith
Closing Prayer - J. Carithers

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

BIBLE CLASSES

- Joshua and Judges
(In the Auditorium)
- Great Lessons from Jesus
(In Room 204)

Directory Updates

email: clanton4@gmail.com