

THE HEART OF A WORSHIPER

JOHN 4:23,24

INTRODUCTION:

1. A common complaint of any worship service is that it lacks the enthusiasm that is characterized by the “spirit” (John 4.23,24)
2. To worship is to draw near to God, made possible only by the blood of His Son. This takes heart!
3. God desires those who come near to Him in worship, but true worship begins with the inside first. (Matt. 23.25,26)

I. TRUE WORSHIPERS ARE EVERY DAY WORSHIPERS

- A. **PHILIPPIANS 3.3:** “*For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit...*” Worship is what we do!
1. Christianity is more than just putting on our Sunday best.
 2. Is the assembly of the church our sanctuary? (Isa. 66.1-3)
 3. To worship God after living worldly is to draw near with our lips, but not our heart. (Matt. 15.8,9; Jer. 12.2)
- B. How do we serve God on a daily basis?
1. Daily prayer and study. (1 Thes. 5.17; Ps. 55.17; 1.1,2)
 2. Depart from all sin and iniquity. (James 1.22; Heb. 12.1)
 3. Set your mind on things above. (Col. 3.1,2; Rom. 8.5,6)

II. DO YOU HAVE A FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH?

- A. Through the death of Christ we can be assured that our worship is acceptable to Him. (Heb. 10.22; Eph. 3.12)
- B. What cripples our faith and diminishes our confidence?
1. One cannot approach God with sin in his life, but God forgives the sincerely repentant. (Ps. 24.3,4; Heb. 10.22)
 2. Damaged relationships with spouse or brethren make fellowship and unity difficult. (1 Pet. 3.7,8)
- C. Do we have the full assurance of faith when we...
1. Come together and pray? (1 John 3.19-22)
 2. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? (Eph. 5.19)
 3. Remember the death of Jesus? (1 Cor. 11.27-30)
 4. Take up the collection? (2 Cor. 9.5-7)
 5. Hear the word of God proclaimed? (Rom. 10.17)

CONCLUSION: When we worship God in spirit as well as in truth, the church will be edified. (1 Cor. 14.12)

Northside Church of Christ

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

“...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” -Ephesians 2:19

January 3rd, 2010

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

DO THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS?

Although conduct may be questionable or a practice may be unauthorized, it is often justified by pointing to the end results. After all, musical instruments are not supported by scripture, but consider all the edification that results when they are used. And stealing may be wrong, but if it is done to feed a starving family then it is justified.

Does the word of God address whether or not the ends justify the means? Indeed it does. King Saul believed that the ends justified the means. In a military strike against the Amalekites, God commanded Saul and his army to kill every man, woman, child, and animal (1 Sam. 15.3). However, Saul neglected to follow through but saved the king and all the best livestock (1 Sam. 15.9). When he was confronted for not obeying the commands of God, Saul justified it by saying, “*the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God*” (1 Sam. 15.15). Saul thought that disobeying the commands of God would be justified considering that he spared the sheep and oxen to do a good deed. But the ends did not justify the means. God responded, “*Behold, to obey is better than to sacrifice*” (1 Sam. 15.22).

Whatever good comes out of sin can never be used to justify violating the will of God.

CLP

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

MATTHEW 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. We can never know what the future holds, but we can know what holds the future. For the future is based on the present.
2. The church universal is never destroyed, but the church local can be influenced by the world and eventually fall. (Matt. 16.18)
3. We can have confidence in the future of this congregation, but only when we are careful with our treatment of today.

I. THE CHURCH CANNOT BE SET BACK BY THE PAST

- A. Many things can cause a local congregation to become discouraged. (Phil. 4.22; 2 Cor. 4.8-10; Rom. 8.35-37)
 1. Consider the Corinthian church and all the challenges they faced. (1 Cor. 1.11; 5.1; 6.1; 7.10,11; 11.20)
 2. Paul forgot the things which were behind and reached forward to those things that were ahead. (Phil. 3.12,13)
- B. **ROMANS 8.28:** “*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God...*” (cf. Gen. 50.20)

II. THE CHURCH CANNOT BE SATISFIED WITH TODAY

- A. If the future looked just like today, we would have no reason to be hopeful. (Deut. 1.6; Josh. 1.2)
 1. No matter our place individually or collectively, there is always room for improvement. (2 Pet. 1.5-7; 3.18)
 2. “*Tell the children of Israel to go forward*” (Ex. 14.15)
- B. It is time for Christians to be more visionary and set out to realize the great potential within. (2 Tim. 2.2; Titus 2.3,4)

III. THE CHURCH CANNOT LOSE CONFIDENCE IN GOD

- A. Do we have confidence in what God said? (Acts 27.25)
 1. Everything God has promised, revealed, and instructed has been proven effective. (Isa. 55.10,11; Num. 23.19)
 2. Yet many see what they want to see. (2 Kings 3.22,23)
- B. Confidence in God means confidence in those who follow.
 1. We ought to have confidence in the elders. (Heb. 13.7,17)
 2. We ought to have confidence in our brethren. (Phil. 3.17)
- C. It is time for Christians to realize how wonderful it is to be a Christian and tell the world with confidence. (Ps. 66.16)

CONCLUSION: If anyone ought to be hopeful for the future, it is us!

FOLLOWING THE PATTERN

It seems that the way of the small country church has all but disappeared. These small denominations have been replaced by large conglomerate operations which more resemble a rock concert than any kind of worship service. In their attempt to attract the masses of people, they try to make their church more modern, flashier, shinier, and glorious. In the spirit of competition, one church tries to offer what another church lacks.

Sadly, many congregations of the Lord’s church have followed the denominational trend and have tried to be more “relevant” in today’s social climate. They try to figure out what the world needs, and then offer it better and more flashy than the other congregations. But is this the kind of evangelistic effort that God expects?

Looking at how to build a church, we need to consider the example of Noah. God was detailed and specific on how to build the ark. From the dimensions, to the exact location of the door and window, to the materials, God left no detail out (Gen. 6.14-16). I suppose Noah could have come up with a better boat. He could have made it faster. It could have looked shinier and flashier. But instead of innovations, Noah did exactly as God commanded and built the ark according to the pattern that God provided (Gen. 6.22).

We need to look to the example of Moses. When God revealed to Moses how He wanted the temple to be built, Moses could have deviated from the plan and build something that he felt more reflected the personality of the people. He could have modernized it so that the people might have been more willing to come and offer sacrifices. Yet God was not interested in any changes to the plan. For God instructed Moses, “*And see to it, that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.*” (Ex. 25.40).

Instead of appealing to what the world wants, we ought to offer what the world needs. That need is invariably salvation, truth, and fellowship. And when we offer only what God provides with nothing added and nothing removed, then we can have confidence that we are attracting the world. However, it is not because they see in us a place to be entertained, but because they see that salvation is found in no other (Acts 4.12), and God dwells among us (1 Cor. 14.25).

CLP