

## WORSHIP IS A TEST GENESIS 22:1

### INTRODUCTION:

1. From the historical writings to the historical structures, our founding fathers build this country on the principles of faith.
2. Genesis 22.1-18 is a familiar passage where Abraham's worship to God is being tested.
3. Every day we are being tested. (James 1.12). Temptation (peirasmos): Literally, "to put to proofing" [Strong]

### I. THE TEST OF WORSHIP

- A. Abraham's allegiance was tested. (Gen. 22.2)
  1. This was a specific command. (cf. Gal. 4.22)
  2. Worship is a test of allegiance. (Luke 14.26; Matt. 10.37)
- B. Abraham's diligence was tested. (Gen. 22.3)
  1. Abraham was diligent in preparation. (Gen. 22.3)
  2. Are we giving ourselves wholly to it? (1 Tim. 4.15)
- C. Abraham's reverence was tested. (Gen. 22.12)
  1. Not a phobia, but a healthy respect.
  2. **HEBREWS 12.28:** "...by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."
- D. Abraham's obedience was tested. (Gen. 22.16)
  1. Abraham did specifically what God commanded. (v. 16)
  2. God expects obedient worship. (v. 18)

### II. HOW DO WE PASS THE TEST?

- A. Take time to prepare for worship.
  1. **GENESIS 22.2:** "Abraham rose early in the morning..."
  2. What we do before, during, and after. (James 1.21,22)
- B. Bring someone with you to worship.
  1. **GENESIS 22.3:** "Abraham...took two of his young men"
  2. We can encourage other to "come and see" (John 1.46).
- C. Keep God in mind. (Gen. 22.2,3,8)

**CONCLUSION:** Read 1 Chronicles 16.7-11,28,29

**NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**      **DECEMBER 26, 2021**  
**2424 McCARRAN ST.**  
**NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031**  
**(702) 642-3141**

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030  
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: [Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com](mailto:Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com)  
Watch Live at [www.nlvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nlvchurchofchrist.com)

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners,  
but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the  
household of God" (Eph. 2:19)*

**December 26, 2021**

### 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**

### TRAINING THE CONSCIENCE

The conscience is that feeling or sense within us that provokes feelings of guilt when we have done that which we believe is wrong.

It is important to note that the conscience, by itself, is not adequate enough to tell the difference between right and wrong. Indeed, there are times when one may break the laws of God, but because he did not perceive them as sin, his conscience would not be bothered. Although Paul tried to destroy the church, he confessed that "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day" (Acts 23.1).

In contrast, the conscience may be bothered by something that is not against the laws of God. Under the Old Law, the Jews were forbidden to eat meat sacrificed to idols. But under the law of Christ, no such restriction was in place. However, because their conscience had been trained that eating certain meats was sinful, it bothered their conscience to do so. (1 Cor. 8.7,8).

How do we train our conscience? We train it by the word of God. Paul wrote that he was not lying, "my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 9.1). When we are influenced by the Holy Spirit (the word of God), the scriptures confirm our guilt or our innocence. CLP

## THE GOSPEL WILL CHANGE YOU

### MARK 16:15,16

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Going through the book of Mark helps us to look at the of Jesus allowing us to imitate Him. (1 Cor. 11.1).
2. The life of Jesus involves His incarnation, compassion, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.
3. Jesus commissions us to preach a life-changing message.

#### I. THE GOSPEL CAN CHANGE YOUR PRESENT

- A. **MATTHEW 28.19:** *“Go therefore and make disciples”*
1. *“Make disciples”* (matheteuo): “learner”
  2. The word “disciple” is synonymous with the word “Christian” and members of the church. (Acts 11.26)
  3. A disciple is one who follows, listens to, and obeys Jesus. (Matt. 28.20; cf. Gal. 2.20).
- B. How can I be changed into a disciple?
1. **MATTHEW 28.19:** *“baptizing them...”*
  2. Baptizing (modal participle): It is a word of explanation.

#### II. THE GOSPEL CAN CHANGE YOUR FUTURE

- A. **MARK 16.15:** *“Preach the gospel”*
1. Preach (kerruso): Proclaim a message of authority.
  2. Gospel (euangelion): Eu – “good”; Aggello – “message.” (Titus 2.11,12; Rom. 2.8,9)
  3. **MARK 16.16:** *“shall be saved.”*
- B. How can I change my future?
1. **MARK 16.16:** *“He who believes and is baptized.”*
  2. When faith that moves to baptism, my future is changed.

#### III. THE GOSPEL CAN CHANGE YOUR PAST

- A. **LUKE 24.46,47:** *“repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations”*
1. Remission (aphesis): Literally, “freedom”
  2. I am made free of my past decisions and its consequences by the gospel message. (John 8.32)
- B. How can I change my past?
1. **LUKE 24.47:** *“repentance.”* Change the way you think.
  2. From a carnal mind to a spiritual mind. (Rom. 8.5-8)
  3. Change your mind to change your actions. (Prov. 23.7)

**CONCLUSION:** Has your life been changed by the gospel?

## HAPPINESS IS SERVING THE LORD

Proverbs 29.18 tells us that *“where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.”* The revealed word of God (Eph. 3.5) is the guide for our lives. It is not a book designed to oppress humanity and take away our freedoms. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us how to live our lives in a way that brings true happiness. Though it has the illusion of freedom, sin is an oppressive prison that steals all the joy and happiness out of life and sets us on a course of eternal separation from God (2 Pet. 2.19; John 8.34).

We have an example of that in Genesis 4. It is there that God issues a command to Cain and Abel in reference to a specific kind of sacrifice. Abel responded by an obedient faith and offered the kind of sacrifice that God required (Gen. 4.4; cf. Heb. 11.4). As a result, *“the LORD respected Abel and his offering”* (Gen. 4.4). In contrast, Cain brought to God an offering that was not in keeping with God’s command. As a result, *“He did not respect Cain and his offering”* (Gen. 4.5).

Notice how Cain reacted. We are told that Cain *“was very angry, and his countenance fell”* (Gen. 4.5). The word “countenance” refers to your facial expression. The idea is that Cain’s face was downcast. His anger and downcast expression came as a result of his not obeying the command of God and thus being rejected.

It is important to note what God said to Cain. In Genesis 4.7, God said, *“If you do well, will you not be accepted?”* The word translated as “accepted” means literally, “lifted up.” If Cain would do well by obeying the commands of God, then he would not have a downcast expression. He would be lifted up. God then goes on to say that *“if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.”* If Cain continues to have this attitude of wanting to do what he wants rather than what God wants, then he is inviting sin into his life.

This is a world filled with sin as people live their lives according to what they want and treat others with selfishness and contempt. The Holy Spirit explains that *“the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”* (1 John 5.19). Is it any wonder why there is so much misery in the world? But if you give your heart to God and live your life in keeping with His commandments, you can come to know real happiness and contentment. Philippians 1.25 makes reference to the *“joy of faith.”* There is joy in the hearts of those who live their lives by an obedient faith.

CLP