

I Must be Regarded as Holy
Leviticus 10:1-4

Topic: Worship

Aim: To show that meaningful worship must be in spirit and truth.

1. In the Old Testament there is detailed instruction given with respect to the surroundings and actions of worship that took place at the temple.
2. Not so in the New Testament. There is no record of a worship service in the New Testament.
3. There are some accounts from 2nd century sources. See *Early Christians Speak* by Ferguson.
4. No record of an "awesome, dynamic, moving, meaningful" worship experience.
5. I have heard worship described with each of these words. I have also heard pleas for those kinds of worship periods. Some are now pleading for "experiential" worship periods and for worship to be an "encounter" with God wherein we "experience" God.
6. What does that mean? What are we asking for? Does our perceived need for such translate into freedom to do whatever we want in the assembly to obtain such?
7. Some folks think so.

I. I want to look at three Old Testament examples and a couple of New Testament verses to establish a couple of principles.

A. Genesis 4:1-5.

1. One offering acceptable, the other was not.
2. Why? Hebrews 11:4.
3. Principle: every offering is not acceptable, even if it may be more meaningful to me, or the product of my labors and talents. Not every "gift" has an appropriate expression in worship.

B. Exodus 32:1-6.

1. Note verse 5: "LORD" - This intended to be a feast to Yahweh!
2. Culture from which they came worshipped animals. Yahweh in form of a calf more meaningful!
3. Principle: every form of worship is not acceptable.

C. Leviticus 10:1-3.

1. Not free to do as we will.
2. God must be regarded as holy and glorified.
3. It is God who determines what does that, not man.
4. Two principles: God is the object and purpose of our worship, it is not man-centered. And we are not free to make whatever changes we feel necessary to what God has authorized.

D. 1 Corinthians 14:26, 33, 40.

1. Here are three worship principles.
2. Two principles here: all is to be done for edification, things should be done decently and in order.

II. Jesus words in John 4:21-24 give us our final principles.

A. When the woman determined He was a prophet, she asked Him to settle a burning religious question of the day about worship.

1. TRUE worship is composed of two equal elements:
 - a. Spirit = attitude, disposition of heart.
 - b. Truth = right action.
2. Easily demonstrated by examining 1 Corinthians 11: 17-29.
4. God has told us what and how to worship Him.
 - a. Singing, Ephesians 5:19.
 - b. Prayer.

- c. Lord's Supper.
- e. Bible Study
- f. Giving, 1 Corinthians 16: 1-2.

B. Here is the challenge for us today.

1. These actions are meaningful - not because of what we put in them by the exercise of our talents, ingenuity, efforts - but because of what God has placed there.
2. We need to discover that meaning and be pleased with it.

C. Awesome, dynamic, moving, meaningful?

1. It can be - but not because of our antics or use of talents and gifts.
2. But because we have discovered the beauty, power of approaching God on His terms, not our own.
3. And isn't a big part of worship to God setting self aside?

1. Are you worshipping/living according to God's will?
2. Do you need His saving grace today?

Michael D. Greene
Elizabethtown, Kentucky
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