

## *Paul Spoke to Them* *Acts 20:7-12*

Theme: Worship, study of Word

Aim: to show that doctrine, teaching or preaching is worship as we listen to what God has said to us through His Word.

1. Have you ever wondered what the voice of God sounds like? This we do know, when God spoke, people listened!
2. How does God speak to us today? Through His word. Both privately and in the assembly.
3. As we continue our study of true worship we come to the matter of the sermon and its role in worship.

### I. What is worship? Can we define it?

#### A. Many attempts to define worship.

1. Dictionary definition: "An act of paying divine honor to God; a feeling of respect or reverence for power, position, merit, virtue, etc."
2. Words like honor, respect, veneration, praise, obeisance are words often used to help define worship.
3. Of the effort to put a convenient handle on this thing called worship, Andy T. Richie says: "Paradoxically it is simple yet very complex, passive yet extremely active and intense. It is the quiet waiting for and receiving of impressions, yet it is decisive and demanding. Communion with the Almighty partakes of the spirit of hushed waiting:  
When I am weary, I do not try to pray,  
I only shut my eyes, and wait to hear what God will say.  
Such rest it is, to wait for Him as comes no other way."
4. Article by Dwight Bradley quoted by Ritchie, pg. 4.

#### B. But we have been and are concerned in this series with the public worship, what we do in the assembly.

1. Is teaching or preaching worship or is it just something we do at this time because it is convenient?
2. Let's look at four passages.
  - a. Matthew 15:1-9. "they worship...teaching..."
  - b. Acts 20:7-12. When they came together Paul preached.
  - c. Acts 2:42.
  - d. 1 Corinthians 14:1-4. To prophesy is "to speak forth the mind and counsel of God..."

#### C. If there is power in the word to convert and edify, it stands to reason that teaching would play a large part in Christian worship.

1. History tells us it has.
2. In prayer, we speak to God. In the study of His word He speaks to us.
3. Who among us does not need and want a "word from God" when we come together?

### II. Preaching is worship when:

#### A. The Word of God is preached, 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

1. The challenge to the preacher is, as one older preacher said, "to get out of the way and let the Lord speak." The sermon is not about the proclaimer, but what is proclaimed, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
2. The challenge to the listener is to look past the proclaimer to the truth being proclaimed and how it might apply to his life.

B. The assembly is edified and faith is increased, not by the power of the preacher, but by the Word, 1 Corinthians 14:4-5, 40, Romans 10:14-17.

C. The Cross of Jesus and the love of God is proclaimed and men respond to the saving of their souls.

1. Acts 20:7. We pay divine honor to God when we hear Him speak through His word.
2. Though the preaching of the cross may be foolishness to those of the world, we know it is the power of God unto salvation and so desire to worship through the preaching of the Word.

Michael Greene  
Elizabethtown church of Christ.