

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth." - John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse:

1. We must worship God.
2. We must worship God in spirit.
3. We must worship God in truth.

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me**” (Deut. 5:7 ASV). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, “**Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me.**” Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshiper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit (i.e. proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding). This forbids worship that is merely formal — worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshiper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshiper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ's church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord's Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit. This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9 — vain worship.

Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God.

— (Continued on page 3)

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011!

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

TIMOTHY

COME JOIN US THIS
NEW YEAR!

“But in every nation, he that feareth him, and
worketh righteousness is accepted with him.” - Acts 10:35

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.**
- **Tom Rinehart** had surgery a week ago Friday and was hoping to go home this past Friday. He's expecting a long recovery of several months.
- Remember **Frank Allen** in your prayers as he is home in Missouri visiting his mother and we've had no word if he has been affected by the recent tornados there.
- **Ryan Sheppard is at Fort Hood Texas**, preparing to deploy to Iraq. His address is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." - Psalm 73:26

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- This is the **first Sunday in JUNE!** We plan to have our luncheon and congregational and business meetings at the building after the AM assembly. All are invited and encouraged to attend.
- We've posted a **new building cleanup schedule** with weekly slots to better accommodate folks who are unable to do an entire month.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 10 am**, all are invited. Starting next week, we'll be moving these to later in the afternoon (3pm) on Saturdays. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:” - 1 Timothy 1:5

Beware Of Prosperity

A little prosperity will turn the minds of some away from God. They give way to the call for wealth, not realizing that we are all only stewards to take care of whatever may fall to our trust. It is not a sin to be wealthy if we use our wealth to the glory of God, but it is dangerous to go money-mad and forget the Lord in the process.

One who neglects his duty to God and gives his time to worldly things is sowing to the flesh and unless he changes he will reap corruption (**Gal. 6:7-8**). Cornelius **"feared God with all his house" (Acts 10:2)** even before he learned of Christianity.

Our neglect of duty may cause our own children to fail to be interested in their own souls. We must live the right kind of life before our children if we expect them to be interested in spiritual things. Parents who allow the things of this world to consume them cannot expect their children to be any different. Beware of prosperity which causes one to forget God. - **E. M. Borden**, Gospel Preacher

“And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” - Hebrews 11:15,16

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship — (cont. from page 1)

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be "in truth." To be "in truth" is to be according to God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Any act of worship — however sincere might be the worshiper — is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship.

We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned within Scripture. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in New Testament worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it "by faith."

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in New Testament worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship "in truth." But God is pleased when one only worships "in truth." Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Ephesians 5:19. These are:

1. Teaching
2. Singing
3. Prayer
4. The contribution, and
5. The Lord's Supper

These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured of pleasing God today. What pleased him then, will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God.

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” - 1 Samuel 15:22).

- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Bible teacher, Nashville, Tennessee

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011