

How Is Your Worship?

In the last book of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi rebukes God's people for falling into religious indifference and a state of spiritual deadness. Oh, they were still "worshipping" God, but God was not pleased and did not accept it. Malachi wrote to admonish them toward repentance. In Malachi 1:1-13, we can see what the heart problem was.

They had changed God's rules of worship. God had given a standard for their worship procedures, but they decided to change it. Instead of the best, they were now offering the blind, stolen, lame and sick animals (v. 8, 13).

Their hearts were no longer in their worship. In fact, worship had become dreary to them and they were bored by it. "O what weariness," they complained (v. 13).

They had lost all seriousness in their worship. Their attitudes were horrible and deplorable. In fact, it got so bad that they "sneered" at the thought of worshipping God (v. 13).

They had gotten lazy with their worship. It got to the point where they were lighting useless fires (v. 10). God had a certain way He desired to be worshipped, and they were making excuses so they did not have to labor so hard at it (v. 11-12).

They were greedy and skimmed on God in worship. As mentioned before, they offered inferior animals, obviously so they could keep the best for themselves (v. 8, 13).

I fear that we fall into periods of spiritual deadness ourselves from time to time when our worship becomes heartless and mundane. Oh, we may still be here going through the motions, but God may not be accepting it.

How much time do you spend preparing yourself for worship? How much emotion do you express in worship?

Looking at the opposite of what God rejected in Malachi's day, we can see that to be accepted, our worship must be **specific, spirited, sincere, service-oriented, and even sacrificial.**

◆ Broadway Church of Christ, Metropolis, IL - (Bulletin Digest) ◆

Worship is the occupation of the soul with God. By a deliberate act of will we focus our thoughts and feelings on God. We look with awe at His majesty. We are filled with wonder as we view His omnipotence. We stand amazed as we consider His perfect holiness. With reverence we think about His love. With gratitude we remember His mercy. This is what worship is: awe, wonder, amazement, reverence and gratitude.

- Flavil R. Yeakley, Jr, Wadsworth, OH (Bulletin Digest) -

"... worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." - Psalm 29:2

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To **Skip Haught & Family** at the passing of his dad, Warner, whose funeral was last Thursday. Also to **Docie Moore** at the passing of her grandmother, Jessie Stiles, and to **Will Montgomery & Family** at the sudden and unexpected passing of his wife, Anita. May God comfort these families in their sorrow.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Ladies come and join in the fun and fellowship helping in this good work to make stuffed bears for sick & needy kids. No ability to sew necessary.

HOME VISITS: Our Elders and Minister want to get to know the members of this congregation better, and beginning Monday, April 2nd, don't be surprised when they show up at your door. If you prefer to schedule a visit, see Bro. Rico. 100% participation requested.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: Canceled until Tuesday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, April 7th at the Coraopolis, PA Church of Christ. Registration: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Topic: "Seasons of Life" with speakers, Elaine McClung and Betty Smith. Lunch provided.

CHESTER'S SENIOR DAY: Saturday, April 14th, 9:30 a.m. - Noon. Speakers: Aaron Burch and Charles Pugh. Lunch provided.

PANTRY: Noodles and tuna fish.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Jean Haught** (Skip's Mom), 42 Haught Lane, Follansbee, WV 26037. **Susie Haught** (Skip & Sue's daughter-in-law), 202 Rexroad Dr., Weston, WV 26452.

SICK & SHUT-IN: *Allegheny Hospital, Pittsburgh:* Charlie Delong. *At Home:* Arlen Webb, Marlene Evans, Avery Dalrymple (pneumonia), Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Linda Wiersbicki, Fred Larrimore, Blonderia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19), Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Hanoverton	Mar. 18-22 - M-Th 7:00 p.m.	Rico Brown
Glen Easton	Mar. 18-23 - M-F 7:00 p.m.	Peter Ray Cole
Barnesville, OH	Mar. 25-29 - M-Th 7:00 p.m.	Wes McAdams
Weirton Heights	Apr. 15-19 - M-Th 7:00 p.m.	Michael Phillips
CHESTER	Apr. 22-26	Eddie Cooper

JESUS LEFT ...

His purse to Judas
 His clothes to the soldiers
 His body to Joseph of Arimathea
 His mother to John
 His peace to His disciples
 His supper to His followers
 His gospel to the world
 His presence with God's children
 And a crown for me.