

What Do You Bring to Worship?

Patrick Morrison

The Old Testament required all Jewish males to appear in Jerusalem three times per year to worship and offer sacrifices. "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty" (Deuteronomy16:16). It was imperative that those who made the journey to Jerusalem to worship God not come before Him empty-handed. The Old Law even made provisions for those who could not afford to offer the customary sacrifice for sin of a lamb or a goat (Leviticus 5:7-11). From the wealthiest prince to the lowliest pauper, all were to come before God in worship with something to offer. Herein lies a fundamental principle of our worship to God: Worship is something that we offer, something that we bring before God, and when done in accordance with His Divine will, we know that such offerings will be acceptable to Him.

The idea of worship has been lost on many within our generation. For most it is a time to be entertained. Worship has become just another spectator sport, a place to be seen or something to check off the to-do list. It is a shame to see those who claim to love the Lord coming to worship with nothing to offer. Some sit as silent as the tomb while praises are being sung to our Heavenly Father. **Empty-handed!** Some cling tenaciously to the material wealth with which God has blessed them as the time for giving back to Him as He has prospered us comes. **Empty-handed!** Some pass notes, talk or daydream as God's Word is being read or proclaimed. **Empty-handed!** Some slip in, take some unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, thinking they are observing the Lord's Supper, and slip out, ignoring the rest of the worship of Almighty God. **Empty-handed!** Some show up every once in a blue moon [infrequently] and expect everyone to notice the effort they put forth to be there. **Empty-handed!** Brethren and friends, how can we "offer...unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:22)?

Worship is not about man. It has never been about man. It will never be about man. Worship is about bowing the knee in reverence to God and coming before Him with that which we know will please Him. We dare not come empty-handed. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise unto God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15). "But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple" (Psalm 5:7). "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2). "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker" (Psalm 95:6). "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord" (Psalm 116:17). "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" (Psalm 138:2). "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psalm 2:8).

The worship of the God of Heaven demands that we come before Him with something to offer, something that all can afford: our prayers, our praise, our time, our talents, our money and ourselves!

- Gospel Gazette online -

O worship the King; our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

News & Notes

CONGRATULATIONS: To Kevin Richmond on being promoted to Captain of the Follansbee Police Department.

CONVERT'S CLASS: each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Open to all.

LADIES WORK DAY: Next Saturday, March 23rd, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Fellowship Building. This is to assemble birthing kits for the Malawi Project.

"CHURCH LEADERSHIP" LECTURESHIP: Next Saturday, March 23rd, 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Weirton Heights Church of Christ. Speaker: Roger Rush. Lunch served at Noon. Additional details on the bulletin board.

TO HAVE SURGERY: Kevin Richmond on Friday, March 29th.

CHESTER'S SENIOR DAY: Saturday, April 6th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Speakers: Albert Farley and John Board. Lunch provided.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: National Road Church of Christ, Wheeling, Saturday, April 20th, Registration & Refreshments 8:30-9:30 a.m. Theme: "Unexpected Blessings", Speaker: Debbie Wallace. Lunch provided.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: For David Michaels (Ed's brother). David has multiple health issues.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical: Stan Williams. **Veteran's Hospital, Pittsburgh:** Harry Huff. **At Home:** Anita Hopwood, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Eric Martin, Rich Shilling. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson. **Calcutta Health Care:** Audrey Geer (Linda Hall's mother), Janice Hutchins. **Elsewhere:** Carol Williams (Sharon Sprout's mother), 104 N. Clayton, Carlsbad, NM 88220. **Todd Grimes** (Cindy Miskimen's nephew), 3827 Gibson St., New Castle, PA 16101. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), address on the bulletin board. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Hillview Terr., Moundsville.....	Mar. 17-22.....	Ken Burton
Pennsboro	Mar. 17-22.....	Will Montgomery
Barnesville	Mar. 24-28.....	Phil Grear
Hanoverton	Apr. 14-18.....	Dan Kessinger
CHESTER	Apr. 21-25	Bruce Daugherty

Two Kinds of Christians

There are those who say, "I'm a Christian—but": I have to work such long hours I must spend "time off" with the family; I'm just no good at personal work anyhow; I'm paying for a new car or house so just can't give much; I want visitors welcomed, **but** I have so many friends I want to talk to! I would come Sunday night, **but**—etc.

What a relief to meet the man or woman who says, "I'm a Christian—**therefore**": count me in for all I can do; I'll put the church before my recreation; I'll go out of my way to invite some friends to a worship service; I want the Lord's work to prosper—**therefore** I will take an active interest in Bible Study, meeting strangers, talking and living the Gospel of Christ.

Are you a "**but**" or a "**therefore**"?

- Author Unknown -