

WORSHIP OR ENTERTAINMENT?

by Bob Pritchard

Neil Postman described serious problems in modern culture in his insightful 1985 book, Amusing Ourselves to Death. His thesis was that public discourse has been reshaped to such an extent by television and entertainment that thoughtful discourse is missing. “Show business” hype has affected advertising, politics, and religion. Postman’s conclusion is that none of these changes have made for improvement.

In our entertainment-oriented culture, many churches find themselves trying to “outdo” themselves with more and more elaborate additions to worship. What began as special music by a choir becomes a full orchestra with professional soloists. A dramatic reading necessitates a full Broadway stage production. And as long as those who come to worship enjoy what is offered, anything goes. The expectation is that sermons will be shorter, wittier, and more uplifting. Anything in worship that cannot be jazzed up must be abandoned as boring—and there is nothing worse than being boring, we are led to believe.

The problem with this entertainment orientation is that the very object of worship is forgotten. God is the audience in worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that ignorant worship was unacceptable to God, even though it may have been sincere or enjoyable. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) To worship God in spirit and truth means that worship must be from the heart, not just outward acts, and that it must be done in exact obedience to God’s commands. The worship must be directed to Him, not to the whims of the worshipers.

God’s regulations for worship as set out in the New Testament are neither boring nor out-of-date. They are God-centered, while entertainment is man-centered!

Culture relevance is important [Actually, cultural relevance is not remotely important (Rom. 3:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:1-4). However, communicating effectively is (Mark 12:37; 2 Cor. 3:12), TJK]— thus many churches are implementing modern technology such as projection systems to enhance sermons. And there is nothing wrong with the worshiper enjoying worship. God intended worship to bless His children. But when worship is merely window dressing for an entertainment performance, it cannot please God. The apostle warned, “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.” (2 John 9) Paul condemned things that “have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship” (Colossians 2:23). “Will worship” is that which is fashioned after man’s desires.

PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK

This puzzle is taken from Hebrews 11:20-28

C	N	H	K	O	A	S	B	W	P	B	D	X	K	I
S	O	K	T	Z	Q	O	E	O	L	U	X	A	X	T
E	F	M	Y	A	N	U	Z	R	R	S	F	N	S	H
R	I	R	M	E	R	K	R	S	U	F	Q	I	T	C
U	R	D	S	A	C	W	A	H	L	S	R	K	I	U
S	S	N	E	A	N	K	X	I	V	H	A	O	A	O
A	T	O	V	S	E	D	C	P	C	L	V	E	C	T
E	B	S	I	G	S	T	M	P	J	M	A	E	L	P
R	O	A	D	Z	I	E	R	E	W	A	R	D	H	P
T	R	E	R	O	J	P	L	D	N	S	C	A	V	U
J	N	S	N	P	Z	P	Q	B	I	T	R	O	A	Q
G	N	I	L	K	N	I	R	P	S	A	L	S	B	C
I	N	V	I	S	I	B	L	E	O	F	E	I	U	Y
R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	H	Z	F	S	M	I	Q
L	S	Y	H	L	Y	Q	S	G	E	E	R	H	T	T

1. Isaac blessed who and who?
2. Jacob, when dying did what to the sons of Joseph and also did what while leaning on his what?
3. Joseph gave a commandment concerning his what?
4. When Moses was born how many months was he hidden?
5. Moses’ parents were not afraid of the king’s what?
6. When Moses was come to years he refused to be called whose daughter?
7. Moses chose to suffer what with the children of God, rather than to enjoy the what of sin for a how long?
8. Moses esteemed the reproach of whom greater riches than the what of Egypt?
9. Moses had respect for the recompence of the what?
10. Moses forsook Egypt not fearing the what of the king because he could see Him who is what?
11. Through faith Moses kept the what and the what of blood?
12. Moses feared that the One who destroyed the what should do what to them?

Bible Rules For Happy Living

Most everyone I know wants to be happy and have a happy life. It is not like I hear people saying, “You know, I wish I could be more miserable. I think I could be really happy if I could just be more miserable.” Why, that is ludicrous! Since most people want to be happy, perhaps it would be logical for the Christian to examine the Scriptures:

Live one day at a time. Regardless of what Satan may throw at you it can be handled “one day at a time” (James 4:13-15). You can control and conquer if you will take on the obstacles a day at a time.

Learn to say “I love you” to those near and dear. Break the shackles and learned restraints and express your love and appreciation to as many as possible each day (Mark 14:3-6).

Be a giver and not a getter. Often if you fail to get out of life what you want it is because you are expecting to get instead of give (Luke 6:38).

Seek good in everyone and everything. Be a good seeker. Try hard not to be a faultfinder. When faults are present, deal with them lovingly.

Pray every day. Always take time to express thanks for your blessings and ask Him for guidance (Luke 18:1).

Do a good deed each day. The “grandest intention” is not as good as the “smallest deed.” Follow the Lord’s example (Acts 10:38).

Watch your priorities. Keep the important things in first place in your life (Matthew 6:33).

Fill your life with good. Throw away the trash in your life and replace it with good thoughts and good deeds and express to God your appreciation (Philippians 4:8).

Learn to practice the happiness habit. Smile, and the world will smile with you (Philippians 4:4). Make up your mind to “be happy.”

Count your blessings, not your troubles. Though we have problems in this life, we are still richly blessed. The (now familiar) plaque on the wall stated, “I grumbled and complained because I had no shoes, until I saw a man who had no feet.”

--- Author Unknown

NEWS AND NOTES

"I was sick, and ye visited me..." (Matthew 25:36)

Mittie Stallings has moved to Room 704 at Ridgecrest to receive rehab.

Carolyn Tinsley is in Encompass Rehab until March 3rd, Room 233 by the door.

Nina Carner will need to stay in her sling for 4-6 more weeks.

Lanafae Stephens will be having eye surgery in Memphis on March 4th.

Mark Brewer will have back surgery in Memphis on March 5th.

Carolyn Harper will have surgery on March 16th.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates. Also be sure to read any thank you notes we have received that are on the board.

"Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26)

Birthdays/Anniversary Supper will be tonight after evening services. The theme will be March-related – green, Irish, Dr. Seuss, spring.

Ladies' Night Out will be March 10th at 6:30 in the basement.

Men's Breakfast will be March 14th at 8:00 in the basement.

Remember Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 8th, so spring forward one hour.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:14)

Remember the calendar on the bulletin board next to the secretary's office. Each time you invite someone, give a tract or book to someone, or ask someone to study the Bible, please make a point of pinning the calendar as a way to help encourage us all to be evangelistic. Copies of Muscle and a Shovel are available in the library as well as "Seven Steps in Reaching a Soul with Muscle and a Shovel."

Those Privileged To Serve

March 1, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
Closing Prayer: Randy Oden
Bible Reading: Scott Pratt
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Jerry Dodson
Hillard Holcomb Micah Tindall
Jeff Presley Robert Stephens
Jim Johnson Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Micah Tindall
Opening Prayer: Stan Honeycutt
Closing Prayer: Mark Stoker
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: *Singing Night*
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
Closing Prayer: Stacy Eddleman

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

(Wednesday, March 4)
Jason Garland

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

February 23, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	92
Sunday AM Worship	125
Sunday PM Worship	95
Wednesday Bible Study	111
Contribution	\$4,858

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

"As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death."

Proverbs 11:19

The Friend of Truth



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2008 Old Greensboro Road
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405
(870) 932-3920

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

It is so hard to follow Doctor's orders. I know I must do what he says, but not preaching Sunday and not teaching my Bible classes last Wednesday and this past Sunday is not common in my life. I so appreciate Hal Baugh teaching my class Sunday morning and Mark Brewer and Noah Flanrey for preaching for me. I knew they would all do great jobs and they did not disappoint. Hal's class discussion of Acts 8 and the sermons on "How Shall The Young Secure Their Heart?" and "Lessons We Learn From The Scriptures About Fishing" were all well-prepared and well-delivered. Thanks to these good men for sharing their talents with us. I was truly edified.

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, texts, and calls during the time of my surgery and recovery. I am so very thankful that procedures have improved and the recovery is not as hard as it once was. The cauterizing of the surgery area kept me from having so much packing, but it did mean I had to smell that every time I breathed in since then. Thanks most of all for your prayers and God's graciousness in this process. I look forward to being able to breathe through both nasal passages.

We are suffering with so many who are sick and unable to be out. We are missing so many each Lord's Day these last two weeks. With flu, sinusitis, bronchitis, colds and as some have said, "the crud," we are needing everyone to improve and get better soon. We miss you when your seat is empty.

Wednesday night our brother, Noah Flanrey, asked for the prayers of the saints confessing he had not guarded his tongue as a Christian should and that he had allowed his frustrations cause him to say things that were hurtful to another. We rejoiced to go before the throne of God with him and know that a gracious God has forgiven. Please keep Noah and his good family in your prayers.

Also we had a very good lesson Wednesday night from Scottie Blanchard from Ephesians 5 discussing the relationship between a husband and wife and the relationship of Christ to the church. Scottie inadvertently said that the kingdom would be delivered by God to Christ, rather than Christ would deliver the kingdom to the Father. He realized this when he listened to himself going home Wednesday night. He asked me to make that correction in case anyone had gotten the wrong impression. I love that our men are willing to use their talents and I love that the men who speak are so conscious of being certain they have presented the gospel accurately. Thanks, Scottie, from all of us who did not even notice the slip of the tongue.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

**"Where there is no vision,
the people perish...."**
Proverbs 29:18

**God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020**