

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



No Church Assembly Fatigue Here! By Mike Riley

A querist asks, “What do you consider a hindrance to spiritual growth?”

One hindrance to spiritual growth would have to be the problem of neglect (see Hebrews 2:3). It’s been said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions, and there’s more truth to that saying than we might realize.

Because of the fast pace many of us experience in today’s society, it’s very easy to become careless in leaving undone the proper study of God’s word, praying in behalf of others, visiting the sick, or any number of other spiritual priorities that might be considered.

In Hebrews 2:3, the Hebrew writer says that if no “transgression and disobedience” went by unaccounted for under the Mosaic law delivered by angels; and since the Lord’s message deserves more respect than the message of angels, what hope is there for those of us who would neglect “so great salvation” under the New Testament law of Christ? To ask the question is to answer it.

Continued on next page ...

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

July 19 9:00 AM
Study of
Revelation
Chapter 21

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Family Bible Study
7:00 PM
Matthew 17:24-27;
Mark 10:46-52
Luke 18:35-43



Please visit our
website
nscocmeridian.com

- Information about our congregation
- Sermon Audio Archives
- Previous Bulletins
- Member Pages



Like our Facebook Page



“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

Worship Is Not For Our Entertainment

By Ron Boatwright

There is an erroneous idea today that the main reason we attend worship is to "get something out of the service", rather than going there to give our worship to God. This is a selfish motive on our part. This is the reason people cannot be satisfied with the worship service when their emphasis is not on the proper object of worship, God. People want to "do their own thing" in the worship of the church. What the Bible has to say about worship for many people is of little consequence as long as they are happy and feel good. We must be concerned with what God says on how He is to be worshipped instead of what we might want to offer Him.

The United States has produced the most entertainment-oriented people the world has ever known. We have more forms of amusement than has ever been known to man, but we still want more. In our age everything is designed to appeal to our emotions and to entertain us. Our pleasure-mad society gives little thought about pleasing God in their worship. We seem to have forgotten our worship service is to bring glory and honor to God, and not to entertain ourselves.

Much worship today has digressed to be no more than entertainment for people. When we have choirs to sing to us and concerts to entertain us, we are not worshipping God; but we have become the spectators who are being entertained. Let us not try to call this worship. This is very disrespectful and demeaning toward God to reduce our worship of God to the entertaining of ourselves. Worship is not a spectator event. We dare not become spectators, because in worship it is God who is the spectator. People have the roles reversed. People expect divine will to conform to what seems right in their own eyes. Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of the fool is right in his own eyes." The emphasis is how can the worship service be made more entertaining to people to please themselves and not God.

The use of drama in the worship service becomes an entertaining performance with the actors receiving the praise instead of God. And because they have been entertained with a spectacular show they respond with applause (handclapping) to show their appreciation. What do you think God thinks about this perverted so called worship? Many people seem to think that God will accept anything they offer and be glad to get it.

Worship to God is holy and sacred. To pervert and corrupt it with entertainment and what we can "get out of the service" in trying to please and gratify ourselves is nothing short of blasphemy! The sacredness of true worship must not be sacrificed on altars of entertainment-oriented quartets, choirs, and other entertainment groups. We are as Hebrews 13:15 says to "Offer the sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." In worship we must be the participants, not the observers. We want to please and entertain ourselves. In Galatians 1:10 the question is asked, "Do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a servant of Christ." Worship is God-centered not man-centered. When our worship is to please God instead of ourselves, then and only then will our worship be much more meaningful and spiritually uplifting to us and acceptable to God.

When people seek an "emotional high" from worship and don't get it, they are disappointed and start blaming the song service, the preacher, etc. The world wants their worship service to be "more entertaining", thus they are failing to worship God in spirit and in truth. Where in the Bible can we go to show that our worship is designed to please the worshipper. The desire to have an experience or an encounter along the lines of mysticism also gives little regard to what God says in the Bible.

Our worship to God requires commitment on our part. People had rather worship Christ as a babe in a manger than Christ as their crucified savior. Their worshipping Christ as a babe in a manger requires no commitment on their part. They feel they can put Him in a box and live the rest of the year as they please. But worshipping Christ as our crucified savior requires commitment, a complete change of our life, and a willingness to do all that He says. Jesus says in Matthew 10:37, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." God and Christ must be first in our lives, and this requires that we be committed to them.

Note that the Hebrew writer doesn't say "if we reject" but "if we neglect". The Greek word ("ameleo") also appears in Matthew 22:5 KJV, where the guests "made light of" their invitation to come to the marriage feast of the king's son. For men to ignore their sole means of deliverance from sin (salvation) is to incur God's judgment (Matthew 22:7).

We can certainly "make light of" our salvation as well through an attitude of neglect. This problem has prompted the inclusion of the following article entitled, "Consequences Of Neglect" that has helped this writer to look at several scriptural solutions, and hopefully will help others in combating this potentially deadly sin.

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Ken Williams, Maxine Powell)
- All those affected by COVID-19
-
-
-
-
-

Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2020 is in foyer
- August - Potts
- September - Thrash
- October - Carlberg

Announcements

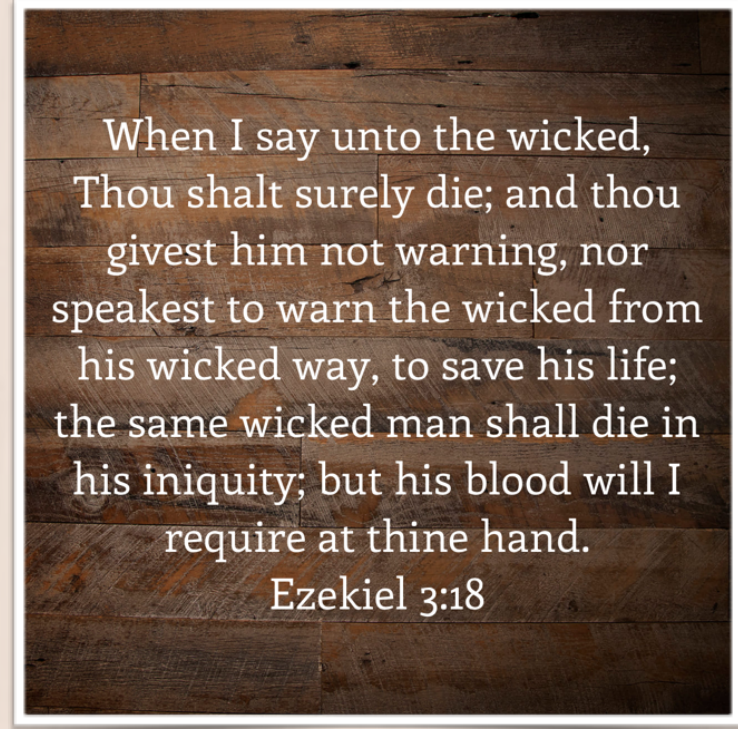
- Mens' Business Meeting today at 3:30
-
-
-

July Birthdays & Anniversary's

- Tristan Rowell - 6th
- Chuck Rowell - 11th

Every Sunday Morning

@ 6:00 AM
on WTOK-TV



Men to Serve

Sunday Morning

- Announcements/Opening Prayer - Greg Powell
- Scripture Reading - Ezekiel 3:16-21
- Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
- Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg
- Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
- Assist on Lord's Table - Chuck Rowell
- Closing Prayer - Don Potts

- Comcast Cable 8
- Comcast Cable 438
- Comcast Cable 1012
- DirecTV 12
- Dish Network 9306
- Dishnet Local 49
- Over-the-air 11.3