

Northside Church of Christ

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



God Is The Audience By Mike Riley

In the more “progressive” churches of Christ today, there are members who think that worship to God should take on the aura of an entertainment spectacle, rather than an humble, respectful, and solemn worship to our Creator.

In the April 22, 1958 edition of the Firm Foundation publication, Brother Frank Pack made the following observation about our worship:

“Many people regard going to church as they would attending a play on the stage. Because they are so man-centered, they think of themselves as spectators, with the preacher as the main performer, and if God is anywhere in the production, He is on the sidelines. How unfortunate and how different from true worship! God is the audience, the congregation is the actor, and the preacher should be only a prompter to help all to draw closer to Him from whom all blessings come (James 1:17; cf. John 3:27). Worship for the Christian is offered to God the Father through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit.”

Brethren and friends, when we offer our worship to God, do we realize our part in the service to God that we are rendering, or do we consider the service as we would a common lecture, or concert?

Do we not realize that when meet with God, we should consider “the place” whereon we stand as “holy ground?” (Exodus 3:1-5; Joshua 5:13-15; cf. Acts 7:30-33).

If we are among those members who have the mindset that our worship to God is just something “common” that we offer, let’s be willing to change our mindset, acknowledging God as the audience instead of ourselves. (cf. Psalm 95:1-7; Acts 17:24-29).



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“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

SUNDAY

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thru the Bible in
52 Weeks - Job
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Matthew 26:6 - 13
Mark 14:1 - 11
John 12:1 - 11
Luke 10:1 - 24
Jesus is anointed
Jesus sends out 72
disciples

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

Place
Stamp
Here

We Must Worship The Lord In His Church

By Ron Boatwright

The Lord is to be glorified by the worship He receives in His church. In Ephesians 3:21 we read, "To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus." But how many churches does the Lord have? Jesus says in Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build My church." The word "My" shows possession and that the church belongs to Jesus. How many churches did He say He was going to build? He said, "I will build My church". The word church is singular not plural. There is only one true church because the Lord only promised to build His one church.

In Ephesians 4:4-6 there are seven ones listed: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Just as there is only one God and only one Lord we also see there is only one body. The Bible says there is only one body; so what is this one body? In Ephesians 1:21-22 we find out what this one body is, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body." Here we see that the Bible says the church is the body. So if there is only one body and the one body is the church, then there can only be one church that belongs to the Lord. One might as well believe in more than one God as to believe that the Lord has more than one church.

In Colossians 1:18 in speaking of Christ, we read, "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He may have the preeminence." Here again we see that the body (singular) is the church (singular). Again the Bible tells us that the Lord has only one church. We also see that in all things Christ is to have the preeminence. For Christ to have the preeminence in all things, we must follow Christ in all things and not follow man. If we follow men in some things then Christ does not have the preeminence in all things.

Since Christ only built His one church, we need to ask where did all these other churches come from? The only answer is they were built by men, so men could "attend the church of their choice", and not God's choice. We read in Ephesians 5:23, "Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body." Christ is only the saviour of His one body, His one church. Christ as head over His body, His church, does not have many bodies; if He did He would be a freak. In the Lord's scheme of redemption, He has only planned to have one church. He is going to only save His one church. Are you in the one church in which Christ is going to save?

Since we have seen in the Bible that the one body is the one church which the Lord built, and that Christ has only promised to save His one body, His one church, then what is going to happen to the hundreds of different kinds of other churches we see in existence today? Again let us let God answer this question. In Matthew 15:13 Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted." What will happen to all those churches that God did not plant? They will be rooted up. This is what God has said He will do. This is frightening. I want to make sure I am in the Lord's church, the only one He is going to save.

In Psalms 127:1 we read, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." This is a sad but serious situation; one that concerns me greatly and causes me much grief and sorrow to see honest people, who are honestly mistaken, laboring in vain. This is a tragedy.

The Bible says that

- 1) Christ is "the head of His church" (Ephesians 5:23).
- 2) The church is "subject unto Christ" (Ephesians 5:24).
- 3) He is the "saviour of" His church (Ephesians 5:23).
- 4) He "loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25).
- 5) He "gave Himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).
- 6) He "sanctified and cleansed it" (Ephesians 5:26).
- 7) He "nourishes and cherishes it" (Ephesians 5:29).
- 8) He is the founder and builder of it (Matthew 16:18).
- 9) He is the foundation of it (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- 10) "He purchased it with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).
- 11) He calls it "My church" (Matthew 16:18).

Is it any wonder it is referred to as the church of Christ (Romans 16:16)?

The one church that Christ purchased with His own blood belongs to Him and the name it wears must honor Him. We read in Romans 16:16, "The churches of Christ greet you." This name glorifies and honors Christ, the one who built it. Other names honor and glorify Martin Luther, the day of Pentecost, the apostles, Rome, Antioch, Nazareth, the Greeks, the Russians, the methodical way of doing things, Christians, the free will, being primitive, southern, missionary, general, the seventh day, science, catholic which means universal, the advent, and the list goes on and on. Even by their names they do not claim to be Christ's one church. Why can't we give the glory and honor to God and Christ where the honor belongs?

Obedying such doctrines as the Mormon doctrine, Baptist doctrine, Methodist doctrine, Nazarene doctrine, Lutheran doctrine, Episcopal doctrine, Presbyterian doctrine, Roman Catholic doctrine, Greek Orthodox doctrine, etc. will only make one a member of that particular denomination. It will not make one a Christian and a member of the Lord's one true church. Confronted by so many conflicting doctrines, people are so confused and don't know what to believe.

Today we hear the sincere but mistaken plea to "attend the church of your choice." Why not attend the church of God's choice, the only one that Jesus "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28)? The church of Christ is the only one the Lord is going to save. Christ did not shed His blood to purchase any denomination. Denominations are counterfeits of Christianity. They may appear to be genuine, but they are not. One cannot be saved by being a member of a denomination. If you are not in the Lord's church, the church of Christ, you are lost. Satan has blinded millions into accepting denominationalism as God's plan. Instead of accepting the truth regarding the Lord's one true church, man stands in rebellion to God. God will not accept those as his children who have altered His plan of salvation in any fashion.

Any church claiming to be the only church Jesus bought with His own blood should be able to prove from the Bible they are that church of the Bible. Can the church which you are a member prove that it is the one and only church the Lord built? If you can't then you will be laboring in vain if you stay in it. This may sound harsh. I say this with sincerity and sadness, but it will really be harsh if you are lost in eternity. We must wake up because this concerns the welfare of our souls and where we will spend eternity. People too long have ignored what the Lord has said in the Bible.

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Maxine Powell)
- All those affected by COVID-19
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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer
- November - Rowell
- December - Montgomery

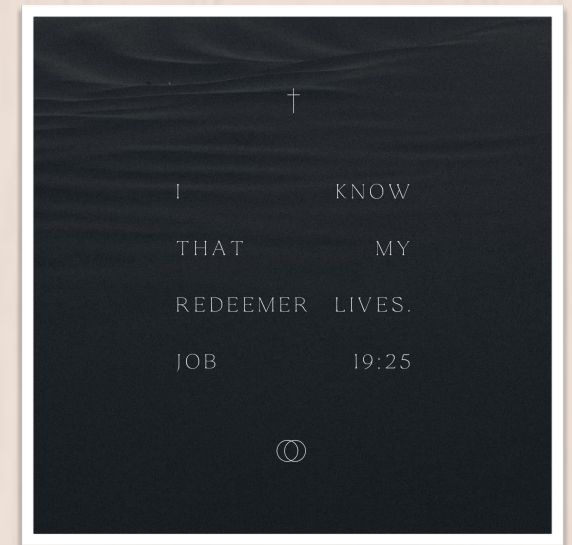
Announcements

- Holiday Dinner - December 12 @ 5:30, Okatibbee Fish Camp
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November Birthdays & Anniversary's

- Laila McKenzie - 5th
- Marilyn Potts - 15th
- Cindy Littrell - 14th
- Margie Wooldridge - 30th
- John/Beverly Isaacs - 25th

Every Sunday Morning
@ 6:00 AM
on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery
Scripture Reading - Job 3:20 - 26
Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
Head of Lord's Table - Don Potts
Assist on Lord's Table - Mark Potts
Scripture Reading - John 19:12 - 19
Closing Prayer - Shay Cooper

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