***Godly Worship***

 *A Brief Commentary*

 *by*

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 Introduction

The purpose of this commentary is to stimulate our thinking as to what is Godly worship, and what isn’t Godly worship in our churches, and in our family life. I believe much of what we consider worship today, is not worship at all. Our minds have been so brainwashed by well meaning religious people who have followed worldly practices rather than God’s Word, that much of true Godly worship has fallen by the wayside. I do not pretend to have all the answers, but I believe it is worthwhile for each of us to re-examine this subject in light of God’s Holy Word.

 **Godly Worship**

Most worshipservices begin with a few hymns to prepare our hearts for a Spirit of worship. This is fine if these songs are songs that honor God; are appropriate for that purpose. However, many of our so called “Christian” songs do not honor God, but rather seem to place the emphasis on ourselves. These are not “songs of worship”.

My wife and I visited a large “Church” once, where at the Sunday morning service they opened with a play by the “Keystone Cops” As they paraded across the stage chasing each other, we wondered, what is coming next? Needless to say we found no “worship” in their services that day.

We realize that not many churches are that far out, but how far out must we be, before we find we are really not worshiping our Lord at all.

This is not intended to take “Joy” out of our services. I believe there should be joy in worship. In fact the Scripture says “rejoice”.

*Psalm 97:12* ***Rejoice*** *in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.*

*Psalm 98:4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and* ***rejoice,*** *and sing praise.*

Worshiping God should be a joyful and continuous experience, whereby we are rejoicing, praising, and giving thanks to God.

**God & God alone is to be worshipped:**

*Exodus 20:3-5 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

*Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

*Exodus 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

*1Chronicles 16:25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.*

When we speak of God, we speak of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One God, yet He is all three Eternal Father, Eternal Son, and Eternal Holy Spirit, each with their respective office, or respective part of His great plan, yet agreeing in one.

Jesus said in John *10:30* ***I and my Father are one.***

It is extremely important that we learn to worship God, for God only is to be worshiped. **God only is worthy of worship**, and we are commanded to **worship God,** and no other.

*Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the* ***Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.***

God is the Creator of all things, God is our Creator, and God is the saviour of our souls.

*Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your* *mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

TheApostle Paul, under the direction of The Holy Spirit says that **it is only reasonable** that we should “present our bodies a living sacrifice”. We should not take this lightly. God said it and God meant it. God by His great mercifulness to us, redeemed us out of our hopeless, sinful state, and gave to us new life. Should we not then be willing to present ourselves to Him wholly and completely for whatever purpose He has chosen for us. This is obedience to God, **This is true worship**.

One of the missionaries who was killed by the Auca Indians in the nineteen fifties, made the statement: “Man is no fool, who gives up that which he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.” He gave up his life, but was already saved for eternity.

Our life and all we have **truly belongs to Our Lord**, who saved us. We have no right to claim for ourselves anything He wants. Only as we yield ourselves and our possessions to God do we find real freedom in Him, and only then are we truly worshiping Him.

*1Cointhians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are* ***not your own?***

Worship is a privilege and command by God, of **Saved** people.

David said: *Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well*.

God’s Holiness is one of His attributes**,** **If** we could separate them we would probably consider His Holiness His greatest perfection.

*Psalms 29:1,2 A Psalm of David. Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;* ***worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***

*Psalm 96:9* ***O worship the LORD in the******beauty of holiness****: fear before him, all the earth.*

**Holiness is completely opposite from sin:**

It is so far removed from sin that sin cannot be tolerated in sight of holiness.

**That is why sin separates us from God:**

*1John 1:5,6 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

**Darkness is a picture of sin:**

*John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved* ***darkness rather than light****, because their deeds were evil.*

We cannot walk in darkness, and worship God at the same time.

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in* ***the light****, as he is in* ***the light****, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the* ***Father of lights,*** *with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

Therefore if we wish to truly worship God, we must flee from sin,

and allow The Holy Spirit to direct our lives.

*2Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart*

**Praising God for His accomplishments is part of worship:**

Many of the Jews had just returned from captivity in Babylon to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. They had done this with much difficulty, and harassment. However, they were very aware that **God had made it possible for them to do it,** and they opened God’s Word and Worshipped Him.

 *Nehemiah 9:3 And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God* ***one fourth part of the day****; and another* ***fourth part*** *they confessed, and* ***worshipped the LORD their God.***

*Ezra 3:10-13 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to* ***praise the LORD,*** *after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they* ***sang together by course*** *in* ***praising*** *and* ***giving thanks unto the LORD;*** *because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel.**And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes,* ***wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy****: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.*

This was weeping and shouts of joy **in praise to God.**

How often when we accomplish some difficult task, **we forget to give God thanks for making it possible when we should be praising God for giving us the ability and allowing us the privilege of doing it.**

*Psalm 107:8* ***Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!***

*Psalms 111:1-4* ***Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart****, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and* ***his righteousness endureth for ever****.* ***He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered****:* ***the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.***

When King David was returning the Ark to Jerusalem after it had been taken by the Philistines, he appointed certain Levites to go ahead of the ark and **thank and praise God** for the return of the

ark, and to record this event.

*1Chronicles 16:4 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and* ***to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel****:*

**Faith and obedience to God is the best form of worship**:

*Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and* ***worship,*** *and come again to you.*

Abraham had trusted God completely, believing that if he slew his son Isaac, in obedience to God, that God would restore him again.

**Idiolatry is the most grievous sin:**

*Exodus 34:14 For thou shalt* ***worship no other god****: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

*Exodus 34:13-16 But ye shall* ***destroy*** *their* ***altars****,* ***break*** *their* ***images,*** *and* ***cut down*** *their* ***groves****: For thou shalt* ***worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:***  *Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring* ***after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods****, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring* ***after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.***

*Deuteronomy 8:19,20 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God,* ***and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.*** *As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.*

Many seem to think they must add to God’s teaching in order to teach how we must live for God. This is not worship, in fact it borders on Idolatry.

 *Matthew 15:9*  ***But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***

*Mark 7:5-9 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips,* ***but their heart is far from me.*** *Howbeit* ***in vain do they worship me****, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.*

*And he said unto them,* ***Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.***

Our Lord reminds us; we must follow His word, not make up rules of our own. Many present day Churches are what I would call **legalistic Churches**. Setting down rules for their parishioners that are not spelled out in the scriptures. Thus making their own rules.

Some think they must help God out by making these rules. **I have found where God’s word is taught, and the people come to love our Lord**, they are obedient **without man’s rules** being pressed on them. Where this does not happen, perhaps the Pastor and Elders or Deacons should re-examine whether what is being taught is really worship or the ideas of men.

*Galatians 5:16* *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Where God’s Word is taught, the Holy Spirit will convict the believers of sin in their lives, and they will love Him, worship Him, and obey Him. We do not need “man’s commandments” for this. If we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.

*Psalms 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.*

**Worship does not begin in the Church, Worship begins at home**:

Much is said of the family altar. And a family altar is needed, but the home should be a place of **constant worship**. We should bring our Lord into every aspect of our lives. Whenever anything is discussed, it should be discussed with God’s will in mind. Not just big decisions, but **our daily routine should always include Our Lord**.

*James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

**The Israelites praised God for delivering them in war:**

*2Chronicles 20:21,22 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should* ***praise the beauty of holiness****, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.*

**Prayer should be worship:**

In prayer we should praise God, but He also expects us to ask for things, as a child might ask his father. However, we need to be sure we are asking in His will so we do not ask amiss.

*James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

*1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

*1Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing*.

Pray without ceasing---Attitude of prayer? Yes, but more, Pray without ceasing. **We should strive to have our lives so entwined with God that we are constantly in touch with Him.**  We need not be talking to God every minute. In fact we need to learn to listen also, but our action or speech should not be anything but what we would do in His presence.

*1Thessalonians 5:18* ***In every thing give thanks:*** *for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*

 *Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they* ***that hear the word of God, and keep it.***

We have a Chorus:

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord.

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah

Praise ye the Lord

This was taken from the Psalms, The word Hallelujah is Hebrew for **Praise The Lord.** Our desire should be to praise Him **constantly** for His goodness to us.

*Psalm 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

 *Psalm 113:3* ***From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.***

When God destroyed the Egyptian army which was attempting to overtake Israel in the crossing of the Red Sea, Moses wrote a song praising The LORD for delivering them.

*Exodus 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea....*

I hope this short article will help us to understand more about true worship. That God should be first and foremost in every aspect of our lives. He has given us our very life, and the means to sustain it. He has provided salvation from our sinfulness, and offered us a place in His own family, where we too shall be made holy. We need to recognize sin for what it is, our enemy, and an enemy of God. Then we need constantly to ask ourselves concerning our worship: Is it of God, or is it of man?

In our worship services in our church, are we singing true songs of worship? Does the message give glory to God? Are we in a proper mind of worship? At home, do we give glory to God for all

things, even what we might call simple things, or are we taking God for granted? (What if He does not give us our next breath?)

Do we recognize that all we have is because of God’s grace? Therefore we should praise Him for all we receive.

*Psalm 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

True worship is something we must engage in constantly, if we wish to really walk with our Lord.

**Let us rejoice in Our Great God, praise, and worship Him continually for His deliverance, and His Great love.**