



What Does Church Look Like?

7 June 2020

(Part 1)

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 19:7-14

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Did You Come Prepared to Worship? (Part 1)

- Worship is the highest and most important **activity** that we were saved to do. All creatures are called upon to worship their Creator. Not to do so is the greatest of sins. (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 4:11)
- We do evangelism and support missions so that sinners will become worshipers, so that, God will receive the honor and glory that is His due.
- The zeal of/for the Lord eats us up. (Psalm 69:9; John 2:17)
- We pray that His name be HALLOWED! (Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2; Leviticus 10:3; Ezekiel 36:23; Malachi 1:11; Revelation 5:12)
- (John 4:24) Christ, our Master/Lord/Teacher, taught, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth."
- First, look at the word "worship" (προσκυνέω proskuneo) - "to kiss the hand"; "to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence"; "to prostrate oneself in homage".
- Next,, look at the word "must" (δεῖ) - "it is a necessity"; "is obligated to"; "one must". There is only ONE WAY to worship God and that is HIS way as He has directed in His **written** Word.
 - ★ Our worship can be a "sweet smelling aroma" to God or it can make Him sick. (Amos 5:21-23; Isaiah 1:11-16; Revelation 3:18; Philippians 4:18; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 2:5)
- Next, look at the word "spirit" - worship must come from within. It must come from the heart (see Matt 12:34-35; John 7:38; 1 Sam 16:17; 1 Chronicles 28:9).
 - ★ The spirit that is acceptable to God is an **obedient, humble, and contrite** spirit. (1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 51:16-17; Proverbs 21:3; Jeremiah 7:22-23; Micah 6:6-8; Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3; James 4:6-10) Even the prayers of those who are living "good" lives according to what they believe to be right are an **abomination** to God.(Proverb 15:8-9; 28:9)

• Next, look at the word "truth".

- ① God must be worship for who He is. God requires knowledge on Him, as He has revealed Himself, before one can worship Him. (Hosea 4:1, 6; 6:6; Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 4:22; Romans 1:28; 2 Peter 3:5)
 - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge . . ." (Proverbs 1:7)
 - We pray to be **filled** with the knowledge of His will . . . so that we can walk worthy of the Lord, **fully pleasing** Him, being fruitful in every good work, and **increasing** in the knowledge of Him . . . (Colossians 1:9-11)
- ② God is to be worship as He requires – NOT as we think. His standard has NOT changed over time, because of cultures, or tradition. Since He is supreme He determines how His creatures are to worship Him. Worship must be according to His **written** Word to be acceptable to Him.
- ③ TRUTH is **not** what men say the Bible says. TRUTH is what the Bible says.

What Does Church Look Like? (Acts 2:42-47)

- On His feast of Weeks (Pentecost), God gave His Son His Holy Spirit and His Son gave the Holy Spirit to His Church. The results were:
 - The MIRACLE of REGENERATION (new birth).
 - There was REPENTANCE.
 - There was IMMERSION.
 - There was the birth of something BRAND NEW - the Church.
- What did these "born-again" followers/disciples of Jesus now DO:
 - They became students of God's Word and His doctrine.
 - They fellowship together.
 - They celebrated their Lord regularly by reminding themselves of all that He had done for them - they broke bread together.
 - They prayed together.
 - They were filled with AWE.
 - They experienced the supernatural.
 - They cared for each other.
 - They made "every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" by being of one accord.
 - They were filled with joy.
 - They worshiped together.
 - They grew together.

They Continued Steadfastly (v. 42)

- (v. 42) “**They**” - not some of them but “they”. “They” communicates that they did it together - NOT on their own.
- (v. 42) **Continuing steadfastly** (devoted)
 - προσκαρτερέω proskartereo {pros-kar-ter-eh'-o}
 - Meaning:
 - 1) to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one
 - 2) to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing
 - 3) to continue all the time in a place
 - 4) to persevere and not to faint
 - 5) to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly
- They made church a priority and did everything together.
- They did NOT have the attitude, “If I have time”; or “If I am not busy”; or “If nothing else gets in the way”. Church was important and it was a priority.

Priority Number One - DOCTRINE (Acts 2:42)

- These “born-again” saints/disciples/Christians **continued steadfastly** in DOCTRINE. They studied the Word of God diligently, constantly, and together.
- DOCTRINE is foundational.
 - ★ Disciples study doctrine. Doctrine is the teachings of Christ.
 - ★ Disciples grow/increase in the knowledge of God. (Col 1:9-10; 2 Peter 3:17-18)
 - ★ Doctrine determines conduct.
 - ★ (2 Timothy 3:16-17) All Scripture is from GOD. If it is God’s Word then man has an obligation to know it and obey it.
 - The Word of God is the will of God for your life. Only those who do the will of the Father go to heaven. (Matt 7:21)
 - To ignore the Word of God is to ignore God. It is to reject God. It is to live life according to my opinion.
- What did Jesus say about studying His Word?
 - ① (John 8:31) **IF** (only if) My Word **abides** in you are you one of My disciples.
 - ② (Luke 10:42) “One thing is **needed** (demanded; required; necessary) . . .”
 - ③ (Matthew 7:24-29) One who ignores My Word is a fool; one who obeys My Word is wise.
 - ④ (Matthew 7:21-23) Those who ignore the Word of God will never enter Heaven.
 - ⑤ (John 12:48) Anyone who rejects Me, and does not receive **MY** words, will be judged by these My very words.

• What does God teach about His Word?

- ① (2 Timothy 3:16-17) **ALL of it is profitable** for:
 - ★ **DOCTRINE**: Teaching us what is RIGHT.
 - ★ **REPROOF**: Teaching us what is NOT RIGHT.
 - ★ **CORRECTION**: Teaching us how to GET RIGHT.
 - ★ **INSTRUCTION**: Teaching us how to STAY RIGHT.
 - ★ **EQUIPPING**: Teaching us how to RIGHTLY perform the works that God has us to do.
- ② (Psalm 119:105) God’s Word is a LAMP to the path that we walk in this world. If we do not use it AS A LAMP wherever we go we are walking in darkness. (Prov 6:23; Eph 5:13; Psalm 18:28)
- ③ (Psalm 19:10-11) God promises that if we do things according to His **written** Word there will be a **great reward**.
- ④ (James 1:22) God declares that if just hear His Word but do our own thing the way we want to do it then He declares that we are only deceiving ourselves. Remember Matthew 7:21.

GOD Does Not Change (Hebrews 13:8; 1:12; Malachi 3:6)

- God commands us to worship (meditate on the meaning of the word) in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
- Satan convinces people that God changes with time, culture, and people’s traditions. His tactic from the beginning was/is, “Has God indeed said, . . .” (Genesis 3:1)
- What God said to and expected of His Church in the first century is exactly what He expects of His Church in the 21st Century.
- God’s **written** Word, not what man says it says but what **it** says, is God’s only standard for His Church.
- God’s Church is the PILLAR and GROUND of TRUTH in the 21st Century and TRUTH is His **written** Word. (1 Timothy 3:15)
- Having the Spirit of God, walking in the Spirit of God, being filled with the Spirit of God, being led by the Spirit of God and sealed with the Holy Spirit will be evident in our living our daily lives in accordance with God’s **written** Word - His Will. (Matthew 7:21; 12:50)