

FOUR KINDS OF WORSHIP

How important is the worship of God to you? There are many beliefs about worship. Some view it as important on Sunday morning and not Sunday evening. There are multitudes who believe that the worship of God is not important at all. Yet, a golden thread going through the Bible is the acceptable worship and adoration of God. In the New Testament there are four types of worship.

First, there is **vain worship**. “But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men” (Mat. 15:9). Vain worship is empty, useless because it is according to the standards of men and not authorized by the Lord. Vain worship is worthless, going no higher than the ceiling, unacceptable to God.

Second, there is **will worship**. “Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh” (Col. 2:23). Will worship is self-imposed religion. It is nothing but an exhibition of wisdom, a mere invention and misrepresentation of men. It is man satisfying man’s will and craving, not God’s.

Third, there is **ignorant worship**. “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:23). Ignorant worship is void of true knowledge of God and is not the worship authorized by God. It is unacceptable to God.

Fourth, there is **true worship**. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). True worship consists of the proper attitude, reverence toward God, and is directed by God’s Word which is truth. It is written, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). This is the worship that God accepts. It is according to His standard and not man’s.

When men worship God, they must understand that it is God centered and not man centered. It is God who we should please and not ourselves. It is not enough simply to worship, one must worship in spirit and truth.

*Paul Vaughn
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BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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God's Way Always Works!

Recently a conservative politician informed the media that her 17 year old daughter was pregnant out of wedlock. The girl plans to marry the father and give birth to the baby. Critics of this candidate were hysterical in their condemnation of this candidate's “family values”. They proclaimed her a negligent mother and a **hypocrite**. They extolled the virtues of sex education and contraception. Many probably thought the girl should have had an abortion.

Premarital sex is immoral.

In our permissive, promiscuous society most laugh at this truth. But God says differently. “*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge*” (Heb.13:4).

The Bible teaches that sexuality outside of marriage does have **long term** physical, mental, emotional and spiritual effects. “*Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that commetteth fornication sinneth against his own body*” (1 Cor.6:18).

God’s way for the unmarried, **abstinence**, always works. So-called “safe sex” and contraceptives do not always prevent pregnancy. And they do not keep one from the **sin** of fornication.

Sin can be forgiven

Perhaps nothing is sadder than a life in bondage to sin, sexual or otherwise. Yet obedience to gospel can free us from that bondage, even sexual sins (1 Cor.6:9-11). As with all sin, that individual must be sorry for their sin and **repent** or turn from it (2 Cor.7:10). This is also true with the Christian (Acts 8:22). And we, as Christians, must forgive from the heart those who repent.

Abortion is not an option

The world may think that the easy, smart way out of a teenage pregnancy is abortion or **the killing** of an unborn baby. But that unborn child is as much the offspring of God at one month (in the womb) as at one year (Jer.1:5).

I am thankful that this young woman chose to let her baby live and that her family chose the path of forgiveness.

*Roelf L. Ruffner
Cheyenne, WY*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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A Warning From Jehoshaphat

Jehoshaphat began his 25 year reign as king in Judah about 100 years after the death of his great-great-great grandfather, king David of Israel, around B.C. 914. (1 Kings 2:12; 11:43; 14:31; 15:8; 22:41). He did not walk in the sins of his grandfather, Abijam, and his great grandfather, Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:31-15:3), but did that which was “right in the eyes of the Lord,” like his father, Asa (1 Kings 22:43). Inspiration declares many good things about Jehoshaphat and his rule:

And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah (2 Chron. 17:3-6).

Moreover, he sent Levites forth with his princes to be sure that God’s word was taught in the land: “And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people” (cf. 2 Chron. 17:7-9). God blessed and strengthened Judah during this time (cf. 2 Chron. 17:10-19). In fact: “...the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat” (2 Chron. 17:10).

Nevertheless, the fourth king of Judah made a serious mistake. “Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab” (2 Chron. 18:1; NKJV). There was really no excuse for giving his son, Jehoram, in marriage to the daughter of Ahab, who was infamous for his great wickedness: “And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him...And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him” (1 Kings 16:30, 33). Ahab was “stirred up” to “work wickedness in the sight of the Lord” by his wicked wife, Jezebel (1 Kings 21:25; cf. 16:31). In like manner, their daughter, Athaliah, would influence her husband and Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram, to do “evil in the eyes of the Lord” (2 Chron. 21:6). After Jehoram succeeded Jehoshaphat to the throne of Judah, he: “killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel” (2 Chron. 21:4b).

Later, after Jehoram’s death, Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead, and after he died, Athaliah, his mother, “arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah,” with the exception of Joash who escaped. Then, she reigned over Judah for six years (cf. 2 Chron. 22:1, 10-12). Evidently, Jehoshaphat had no idea that the joining of his son to the house of Ahab in marriage would result in the bloodshed of his own sons and grandsons, and the promotion of idolatry and fornication in Judah (cf. 2 Chron. 21:5-13). Sadly, Jehoshaphat’s son and daughter-in-law and grandson, worked to undo all the good that he had done. In fact, the prophet of God, Elijah, declared to Jehoram, that he had: “made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father’s house, which were better than thyself” (cf. Chron. 21:13). No doubt, Jehoshaphat would have cringed at the thought of the marriage of his son into this wicked family, had he been able to foresee the future.

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NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Janice Wilson was out of town Sunday attending a nursing convention.

Kathy Treadway was sick and unable to be out Sunday.

We will have a pot-luck following services this morning. Plan to stay and eat together.

A Warning From Jehosophat - continued from page 3

Why today will God’s people do so foolishly? We have example after example in the Scriptures to warn us against the danger of compromise and joining affinity with the wicked. Jehoshaphat did right in many ways, but was very loose in his fellowship practices. For example, after he went into battle with Ahab against Syria, Jehu the prophet said to him: “Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD” (2 Chron. 19:2). Likewise today, God commands us: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11).

It is noteworthy that Jehoshaphat joined affinity with one who practiced that which he condemned. Likewise, today, we have brethren who extend fellowship to those who practice that which they condemn in their teaching. This ought not so to be!

Brethren, remember, as in the family of Jeshoshaphat, our precious children and grandchildren may later pay a heavy price for the compromises we make today. Moreover, let us be warned by Jehoshaphat’s example, that the good we have done in the past does not excuse us for compromising with error, and that these very compromises may later undo much of the good that we have done for Christ.

*Danny Douglas
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