

Unacceptable Worship to God

Introduction

Exodus 20:1-6

1. **Most folks have the idea that it is almost impossible to worship in an unacceptable manner. Anything and everything goes!**
2. **In this morning's lesson we want to look at ways that man can and often does Worship God in an unacceptable manner.**

One Can Worship the Wrong God!

1. **This happened in both the Old Testament and Early New Testament times.**

Exodus 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, **make us gods that shall go before us**; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Romans 1:20-23 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, **and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

- A. **At Athens, they were worshiping many gods, to include an unknown god.**

- 2. Today, man continues to worship the wrong God of their life.**
 - A. Idolatry is still present today. Man has become very materialistic and covetous.**
 - 1) Some people's idols are their jobs or recreation (TV).**
- 3. Could it be that you are guilty of idolatry today? Paying reverence to other things in your life rather than to our Lord?**
 - A. We are commanded to:**

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Right God with Wrong Authority!

Malachi 1:6-8 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

Leviticus 22:19-25

- 1. They were offering that which had no "market value" in sacrifice to Jehovah! He would not accept such.**
 - A. Each sacrifice prefigured the "lamb of God" the Christ who was later to offer Himself without spot for our sins.**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him **who knew no sin to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2. Today we are to "Worship in spirit and in truth".

John 4:23-24

1 Peter 2:5

A. We must act by the authority of Jesus Christ

Colossians 3:17

Matthew 15:8-9

2 John 9-11

1) We are to act by "Christ's, not Moses' authority today

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Acts 3:22-23 "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

3. Our Lord's day Worship consists of:

The Apostle's doctrine

(Acts 15:24; John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:25)

- A. Lord's Supper each first day (Acts 20:6-7; 1 Cor 11:23-30).**
 - 1) Some failed to observe this supper properly (17-22).**
- B. Singing Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:15).**
- C. Giving to support the cause of Christ (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9).**
 - 1) Must give cheerfully, willingly, bountifully, as one purposes and as one has prospered.**
- D. Bible Study and or preaching Christ (Acts 20:7; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Timothy 4:16; 1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 28:20).**

Worship the Right God in the Wrong "Place":

1. Jerusalem was the right place for the Jews.

1 Kings 12:27-29 "If these people go up to offer sacrifices in **the house of the LORD at Jerusalem**, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah." Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

- A. Jeroboam had set up alters one at Bethel and one at Dan and ordained a new priesthood etc. This was not acceptable to God!**

- B. Besides they made graven images to assist in their "worship." This was to prevent the members of the ten tribes who had rebelled from returning to "Jerusalem" where God had "recorded His name" (2 Chronicles 6:9-11), which was the right place for Jewish worship.**

Woman of Samaria:

John 4:19-20 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." (See also Acts 2:5; 8:27-28)

2. Men and women today attempt to worship God in the "wrong places."

- A. I mean by the "wrong places" — in the wrong relationship. Many attempt to worship God as members of human denominations.**

- 1) Plants not planted by the Lord are destined to be "rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). They teach and practice as their doctrines, commandments of mere men which render their worship vain! Jesus said:**

Matthew 15:8-9 These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. **And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**

- B. One who has not been "reconciled unto God in one body by the cross of Christ" is unable to worship God and Christ in Christ's name.**

- 1) Citizens of Satan's kingdom cannot render acceptable worship to God! (Eph 3:21; 2:11-17)**

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; **but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."**

- C. Jesus said "there shall be "one shepherd and one fold."
John 10:16**

Worship the Right God, by the Right Authority, in the Right Place, and Still Not Worship God Acceptably!

1. How is this possible?

A. By not discerning the lord's body and blood in communion

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For **he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself**, not discerning the Lord's body.

B. By not meaning AND understanding what one sings and prays!

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray **with the understanding**. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing **with the understanding**.

C. By not giving cheerfully AND bountifully as one has been prospered!

2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver**.

D. By failing to be a proper listener with intent to do the will of Christ!

James 1:22-25; 2:14-26.

E. It goes without saying that one must be present in our assemblies to fulfill this part of our worship and service to the lord.

Hebrews 10:23-31

