

Worship of the Church

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **series** on the church: identity, organization, work
- **this lesson:** worship of the church (part of work)

➤ **Worship of the church is limited in scope:**

- **worship limited** in scope **like work** – cf. **work of church**
 - **Jn. 4:23-24** God seeking, **worship in spirit and truth**
- - **Jn. 17:17** **God's word is truth**
 - **Bible** is the only source of **truth**, only place we find out how to **worship** God
- - **Mk. 7:6-9** **worship not according to God's word** is **vain**
- - **Col. 2:20-23** it's **man-made (self-made) religion**

- - **Two approaches:** worship as commanded / worship anyway we want unless forbidden
 - **Jn. 4:23-24; Jn. 17:17** requires worship as commanded, word
 - **Mk. 7:6-9; Col. 2:20-23** vain worship if do whatever we want, anything else
 - **illus.: Gal. 5:4** **change in worship results in falling from grace** – **Gal. 1:8** **teachers accused**
 - **illus.: any time Israel changed their worship** (added, subtracted) God greatly displeased, punished them
 - human sacrifice, sacrifice to other Gods (e.g., Solomon), etc.

- - **no one group can worship God in every way invented by man**
 - **illus.:** if man dictated worship of the church, there wouldn't be enough hours to do it
 - we'd have animal sacrifices to satisfy some people
 - human sacrifices to satisfy others
 - we'd have idols to satisfy some
 - we'd cross ourselves to satisfy some
 - cross ourselves with three fingers to satisfy some
 - cross ourselves with four fingers to satisfy others
 - not cross ourselves on some days to satisfy others
 - we'd worship on Saturday to satisfy some
 - Sunday to satisfy others
 - not at all some weeks to satisfy others
 - etc. . . .
 - **God has commanded specific way to worship, ruling out all other worship**, so we can succeed as worshipers
 - **our job: find out what God wants from His church, and do it**

➤ **5 Overview: Worship of the church**

- **PP overview:** **prayer** (Acts 2:42; Rom. 12:12), **teaching and learning God's word** (Acts 20:7, 11), **singing** (Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16), **collection** (1 Cor. 16:1-2), **Lord's Supper** (Acts 20:7)
 - **briefly review Scriptures**

- - **PP properly, orderly manner** (1 Cor. 14:40)
 - **briefly review Scripture**

- **Our Assembly on Sunday – rf - list of five acts of worship, above**
 - **Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2** first day of the week, Lord's Supper and collection
- - **Mk. 16:1-2** first day of the week the day after the Sabbath, Sunday not Saturday (Sabbath)
- - **Do Christians have to assemble “every” Sunday? – go to church every Sunday? – frequency**
 - **Heb. 10:24-25** not forsake
 - **not forsake:** not leave behind, not leave in a lurch (Robinson)
 - **illus.: high school, football captain**, went to movie and skipped game, team lost, captain forsook
 - **illus.: parent leaves baby in hot car**, goes into store, baby dies, parent forsook
 - **illus.: Christian goes to movies Sunday morning**, not assemble, not encourage, not partake of L.S., Jesus comes back at 1:00 pm, **did Christian forsake** the assembly???
- - **principle: when God instructs us to do something, we do it every time unless he gives an exception**
 - **illus.: Eph. 6:1** God instructs children to obey their parents in the Lord
 - **obey every time, as long as** parents’ command in harmony with God’s word
 - **can’t “skip”** on Mondays, Tuesdays, etc.
 - **Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2** God instructs, assemble on Sundays for the Lord’s Supper and collection
 - **obey every time, unless prevented by circumstances beyond our control** (e.g., health)
- - **Rom. 15:4** Old Testament for our learning
 - **learn: whenever God commands His people to assemble on a specific day**, we must assemble every time that day occurs
 - **God did not specify the frequency** (i.e., every week, every year, etc.) of observing the **Passover, Sabbaths, and feasts**. Therefore, Israel properly inferred that they must be observed every time the specified days occurred.
 - **God did not specify the frequency** (i.e., every week, every year, etc.) of observing the **Lord’s Supper** and taking up a **collection** on Sunday. Therefore, we **must infer that we do it every Sunday**.
 - **note: 1 Cor. 16:2** “every” week
- **Assembling on other days**
 - **PP overview:** Christians can **assemble any day** to **pray** (Acts 16:25), **sing** (Acts 16:25), and **study God's word** (Acts 5:42)
 - **briefly review Scriptures**
 - only authorized to observe Lord’s Supper and take up collection on Sunday
- **Teaching / Preaching – commend teachers** - talked about in detail during lessons on the work of the church
 - **Acts 20:7** Paul, Troas, L.S., **taught till midnight**
- - **2 Tim. 4:2** Timothy’s work at as **minister** in Ephesus, **preach**, when popular and not popular, **reprove, rebuke, exhort**
- - **Col. 1:6-7, 5** brethren in Colosse, **heard, learned, understood, believed, hope**
 - everyone responsible – rf - **Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:22**

end Part I – Summary / Inv.

➤ 6 Part II: intro / review

➤ Prayer

- **Acts 2:42** we **devote** ourselves to **prayer**
- - **Acts 12:5, 12 illus.: Christians assembled, pray** for Peter, late night, when imprisoned
 - **prayers answered** – **Ja. 5:16** fervent prayer righteous man avails much
- - **Col. 4:12 illus.: Epaphras, praying for Colossians, laboring** for them in prayer
 - **prayer is one thing we can all do to help** others, **labor** for brethren
- - **Jn. 14:13; 16:23-26** prayers offered to God in the **name of Jesus** – **authority, power**
- - **Eph. 2:18; 3:12** through **Jesus** we have **access to God**
- - **Col. 3:17** everything we do is **in the name of Jesus**
 - usually say **“in Jesus name”** during prayer, not mandatory, but makes clear praying in Jesus’ name

➤ Collection – talk about on Sundays before giving

- **1 Cor. 16:1-2** collection
 - **when:** first day of week
 - **purpose:** saints
 - **what:** common treasury, so no collections when Paul came to them
- - **2 Cor. 8-9** principles of giving
 - **8:5** 1st give self to the Lord
- - **9:6, 11** sow bountifully (give liberally)
- - **9:7** purposed in your heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, cheerfully
- - **9:8-11** God will bless you materially, so you can give liberally
- - **9:11-15** result is thanksgiving and prayer, by those who receive

- talked about authorized use of money during lesson on the work of the church

➤ Lord’s Supper – talk about on Sundays before L.S.

- **1 Cor. 11:23-26**
 - **order:** thanks, bread, thanks, fruit of the vine – rf - night Jesus’ instituted
 - **purpose:** remembrance of Jesus, bread His body, fruit of vine His blood, new covenant in His blood, shed for remission of sins, proclaim His death – rf - night Jesus’ instituted
- - **1 Cor. 11:27-32**
 - **partake in worthy manner:** examine self, partake properly
 - **if partake in an unworthily manner:** weak and sick and sleep (die, spiritually)
 - **song, Scripture reading, words of encouragement:** help us examine self, partake properly

➤ **Music in the Church** – acapella

- **Eph. 5:18-19**

➤ - **types of songs:**

- **psalms:** songs of praise

- the word is used in the NT to reference OT psalms, but isn't limited to them

➤ - **hymns:** sacred songs of praise

- OT psalms are sometimes referred to as hymns in secular Jewish writings, so the difference between "psalm" and "hymn" is difficult to comprehend

- it's probable that Paul uses "psalms" to denote OT psalms and "hymn" to denote other songs of praise

➤ - **spiritual songs:** songs of a spiritual nature in contrast to songs of a secular nature

➤ - **accompaniment:** making melody with your heart (vs. 19)

- *psallo* (**make melody**) means to play strings, pluck strings

- in the NT it's also translated "sing"

- **accompaniment specified by God**

- **the strings we are to play are the strings of our heart** (make melody - to the Lord)

- **since God has specified the accompaniment**, we can not substitute or add any other accompaniment

- **illus.: Noah, Gopher wood**

➤ - **to the Lord:** our singing, accompanied with our hearts, is directed to the Lord

- **Col. 3:16** "with thankfulness in your hearts to God"

➤ - **Col. 3:16 teaching and admonishing one another**

- **personal benefit:** word of Christ dwells in us richly, all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another

- **not receive this benefit to same degree, if at all, if have mechanical instruments** (e.g., piano, guitars, drums)

➤ - **instruments in OT worship vs. NT**

- **2 Ch. 29:25** God commanded the use of mechanical instruments in the OT

➤ - **Heb. 7:12-14** God changed the law

- **Gal. 6:2** we must fulfill (obey) the law of Christ

➤ - **Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16** God commands us to accompany our singing with heart, not mechanical instruments

➤ - **historical perspective (quotes)** – read brief quotes

- **Second century:** Justin Martyr

- **Music of the church vs. Pagan religions**

- **Roman Catholic:** note accepted till 12th century

- **Reformed denominations:** Calvin, John Wesley, Adam Clarke, Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon

➤ **Summary / Invitation:**

- **worship of the church is limited in scope:** prayer, teaching and learning God's word, singing, collection, Lord's Supper

- **our aim:** obey God, worship as commanded

- **inv.:** Christians offer acceptable worship, in you're not a Christian. . . .