

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 accursed**
 - **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 – 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 – **Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:22**

end Part I – Summary / Inv.