

THE WORTH OF WORSHIP

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1.

Man is incurably religious. Through the centuries, in every tribe and race, among all tongues, men have built altars, offered their sacrifices and gone through forms of worship. Carlyle said, "Man always worships something."

True worship of God means to wait in His presence in reverence, to adore and praise and magnify His name, and to enjoy communion and fellowship with Him. Everybody should worship the Lord, both in private and in public. Earnest thinking should lead every Christian to do the following things about public worship:

I. Appreciate The Privilege Of Worship.

What a marvelous privilege is worship! The act of divine worship is the inestimable privilege of man, the only creature of God who bows in humility, gratitude and adoration of the Creator. To fail to take advantage of this rare privilege is tragic. For any people to forget God and fail to appear before Him in the beauty of holiness and lift their hearts in His courts of praise in gratitude, thanksgiving and adoration is one of the greatest misfortunes they can sustain.

It is a supreme privilege to worship God. He has given us life, and He is the one Who sustains it. He wants us to worship Him. He is highly pleased when people fix their minds and hearts on Him. We worship Him in quiet meditation, in singing, in praying, in giving and in service in His name and for His glory. We should appreciate the privilege of worship.

II. Attend The Place Of Worship.

"Let us go into the house of the Lord." Yes, people can worship God in the home and in the fields, but the truth of the matter is that most of them do not. It is the will of the Lord according to the teaching of the Bible that the people have a place to gather for worship. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Hebrews 10:25). Christ established the church, and one of its chief ministries is that of worship. Church buildings are erected and dedicated as place of worship. They have always been held as sacred places where people felt a sense of God's presence and where it was easy for them to draw near to Him. As we enter the house of the Lord, we believe that here is a house erected, adorned and ordered for the worship of God whether it be elaborate and expensive or plain and inexpensive. Here, better than elsewhere, we can feel His presence and sense His nearness to our souls.

The house of the Lord has always been indicative of the love of a people for their God. It also reveals their interest in the worship of the divine. God's house should measure up with the best buildings in the community. No people with any degree of spirituality, fervor and zeal will allow the house of God to be neglected and become dilapidated. God expects the best of us in every realm. It is to the credit of men through the ages that some of the most magnificent buildings have been those of worship.

The Lord Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it. The church is the quiet place of worship where the Lord will meet His people and bless them. Such worship

will strengthen and sweeten life and give power for growth and service. Oh, that all would attend the worship services in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day and learn the will of the Lord for their lives.

III. Attempt To Get Others To Worship.

Say to others, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." It is said that a man, whose neighbor invited him often to play golf, one day was asked what he did on Sundays. The man replied, "Why I go to church on Sundays." Then his neighbor rebuked him by saying, "If you do, why haven't you asked me to go with you."

Why should a person be so strangely silent about extending this important invitation to worship? It is important and valuable to invite people to the house of the Lord. It should be the matter of greatest concern to every child of God. Get others to share this privilege and blessing with you, and a blessing will come to each of your hearts. The Lord's house is a place for the Lord's people to worship on the Lord's Day. Public worship brings refreshment to body, mind and soul. It is as vital to our spiritual life as breath is to our physical being. If men realized the real worth of worship, they would certainly avail themselves of the privilege of it. To neglect the house of the Lord on the Lord's Day is not only a sign of spiritual decay but it is a sin against God.

The worth of worship is revealed in its results. Great decisions for great living have been made in God's appointed places of worship. Take out of the world the good influence of those who have found inspiration and strength for their lives and work in the worship of God in His house and you would remove the greatest and holiest blessings. Regardless of how poor the music or the sermon, there is a blessing to be had when a child of God truly worships Him. To come into God's presence and realize the fulness of His joy is worth all the time, effort and money it may exact of us.

"My house shall be filled with music,
With song, with praise and prayer,
And the burdens of life shall be lifted
From all who enter there."

IV. Adore The Person Of Worship.

"The Lord is great, and greatly to be praised" (Psalm 96:4). "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Enter the house of the Lord with your mind on the Lord and seek to magnify His glorious name in prayer and in praise.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Why do I have joy in the prospect of public worship? Because:

1. There is a house of the Lord to which I may go.
2. I am able to go to God's house.
3. I am disposed to go.
4. Others have invited me to go.
5. Of the company with whom I mingle.
6. Of the exercises in which we engage.
7. Of the instruction which I receive.
8. Of the interests we promote.
9. I can glorify my Lord in doing so.