

In search of...

Truth & Right

Volume 10 Issue 47

November 22, 2015

The Right Worship

Most of us have felt the feeling when we are tired, concerned, or stressed that, while we may be present “physically,” we are not there mentally. I suspect most of us have even said something in the past like: “I’m here physically, but not mentally.”

But what happens when this attitude infects our worship? How many times have Christians entered an auditorium for worship, only to check their brains at the door? It is no secret that individuals today can sing and take part in the Lord’s Supper, but be mentally absent from worshipping God.

Internally we may be focusing on someone’s new hairstyle, the preacher’s clothes, where to eat

lunch, or an upcoming ball game. Yes, we are physically in worship, but our attitudes demonstrate that we never acknowledge being in the presence of Jehovah God. Sadly, there are occasions when people are worried about critiquing the preacher, the roast in the crock-pot, passing notes, whispering, personal grooming, playing with children, etc., and thus, they never mentally engage for worship.

Here’s what I intend on teaching my children about mentally engaging for worship.

The mainstream media has done an incredible job of painting Christians with a broad-stroke as ignorant individuals. Hollywood has

reconfirmed this label by frequently showing Christians as weak-minded and foolish people who don't have enough strength to cope with life on their own.

Sadly, this label is occasionally well warranted. There are times in which Christians don't use their God-given brains—and they never truly engage their minds during worship. Do not give into this temptation—no matter how much is going on in your life. Take a few moments to clear your thoughts and remind yourself why you are doing what you are doing and Who the ultimate audience is for our worship.

Consider one example in which the Lord observed: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men ..." (Isaiah 29:13). We know from the text that the people had offered their sacrifices (Isaiah 1:11ff), but their attitude was one of just going through the motions. Jesus used this very passage to rebuke the Pharisees: "Hypocrites!

Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: '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'" (Matthew 15:7-9).

These were people who were going through the motions, but their hearts were not in it.

On another occasion, Jesus again commented on their attitude, rebuking the Pharisees saying: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Matthew 23:23). The Pharisees were correctly observing some of the small details of worship, but they completely neglected why they were doing what they were doing. Their hearts (and minds) were in the wrong place. They weren't mentally engaged in what they were doing.

Never forget that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of

BIBLE Trivia!

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. What angel helped Daniel understand the future?

- a) Ishmael
- b) Gabriel
- c) Michael
- d) Azrael

2. Who said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"?

- a) John Mark
- b) Peter
- c) Barnabas
- d) Stephen

3. To whom does the writer of Hebrews attribute Psalm 95?

- a) Solomon
- b) David
- c) The Holy Spirit
- d) Asaph

4. What feast did Mordecai prescribe in his letters to the Jews in Persia?

- a) Unleavened Bread
- b) Booths
- c) Purim
- d) Yom Kippur

5. Where was Jesus when He taught two people how the prophets had predicted His death?

- a) The road to Emmaus
- b) Capernaum
- c) The road to Jericho
- d) Bethany

6. Whose last words were "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?"

- a) Zerubbabel
- b) Athaliah
- c) Omri
- d) Jezebel

7. Which Gospel mentions an earthquake in connection with the resurrection of Jesus?

- a) John
- b) Matthew
- c) Mark
- d) Luke

8. What name is the Sea of Galilee called in the Gospel of John?

- a) The Sea of Tiberias
- b) The Salt Sea
- c) The Great Sea
- d) The Sea of Gerasenes

9. Where did Moses bring water out of the rock?

- a) Etham
- b) Kadesh
- c) Horeb
- d) Sinai

10. In the Bible, what was the largest army assembled?

- a) One million men
- b) Five hundred thousand men
- c) seven hundred thousand men
- d) Two million men

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) D, Reference: Ezekiel 42:20
- 2) C, Reference: 2 Corinthians 11:14
- 3) B, Reference: Acts 12:14
- 4) A, Reference: Romans 16:13
- 5) B, Reference:

- 6) A, Reference: Zechariah 2:3
- 7) D, Reference: Matthew 27:65
- 8) C, Reference: 2 Kings 17:24-25
- 9) B, Reference: 2 Timothy 4:14
- 10) D, Reference: Psalm 100

wisdom (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7). In Paul's admonitions to Timothy he told him, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV). God has not called us to be unintelligent. Rather, He wants us to study and be able to defend His Word. In 1 Thessalonians 5:21, we are commanded to "Test all things; hold fast what is good." In James 1:5 we read, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Do these admonitions sound like crutches for weak-minded people? We must actively engage our rational, intelligent minds in worshipping our Creator. Christianity is a religion based on evidence and intelligence. Don't check your brain at the coat rack!

Brad Harrub

Happy Moments,
Praise God.

Difficult Moments,
Seek God.

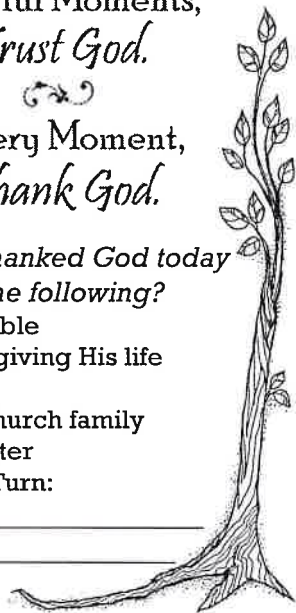
Quiet Moments,
Worship God.

Painful Moments,
Trust God.

*Every Moment,
Thank God.*

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

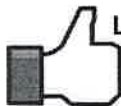
- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:



This bulletin is published by the
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