



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

In last week installment I shared with you the first of three biblical references to becoming a true worshiper, one who worships in spirit and in truth. The encounter is Found in John Chapter 4 where Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at Jacobs well and he tells her that the Father is “seeking those who will worship him in spirit and in truth”. That encounter tells us that all the trapping of the “worship” experience we commonly know are worthless to Him. He is looking for people that will worship Him from their hearts without the hindrance of the earthly, physical, liturgical hokey pokey that we experience in most “worship services”. Check out the web links at the bottom to read last weeks article or email me and I’ll send it to you.

As I promised last week, I want to direct you to the scripture that instructs us how to be a true worshiper that worships in “spirit and in truth”. Lets look at Romans 12....

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

It is the by-product of God’s mercy and grace that we are afforded the opportunity to foster a loving relationship with Him. Without the cross, we would have no avenue to foster that relationship simply because the old covenant disallows sin to be in the presence of the Lord. That condition still exists BUT...Christ’s blood covers our sins and sinful nature and the Father see us through Jesus and then creating a new covenant with us. This scenario sets a prerequisite that accepting Christ is paramount to establishing a vital relationship with Him.

He then tells us to “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice”...We must totally surrender our lives to Him making ourselves totally vulnerable for Him to do with us as He pleases. Christ was a living sacrifice that endured immeasurable pain and suffering so that we would have the privilege to have such a vibrant relationship with God. Our bodies are finite and subject to death, so we must be willing to Him our “all”.

Next we are to “holy and pleasing to God”....“Holy” does not mean pious or spiritually snotty and highly exalted above others. Actually it means the exact opposite attitude. “Holy” in this sense means “available to be used for His service”. The items found in the temple were considered holy. That wasn’t because they were in the temple, but because God had sanctioned and authorized, even designed, their total usage and were there in the temple by His command and desire. Those items were strategically placed there for the service of leading the worshiper into the presence of the Lord. We are placed strategically where we are to seek the presence of the Lord in our lives, as we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit.

“Pleasing” means that we are full of faith and trust God with every aspect of our lives. The Bible tells us “it is impossible to please God without faith”. In fact, as your faith is elevated to a complete level of “trust”, your intimacy with God will grow stronger and deeper. You’ve experienced the joy and fulfillment of the times when you were totally trusted by someone; a child, a spouse, a friend. Trust is the extension of faith. Faith says “I know God CAN..” and Trust says “I know God WILL”...Any relationship must be pleasing, and our relationship with God is no exception, it’s EXCEPTIONAL!!

“This is your spiritual act of worship”...Oh my, where’s the music? Where is the robed choir? Where are the stained glass windows? Where are the committees? Where is the “worship leader/song leader/minister of music/preacher/deacons/elders/Sunday School teachers??

Do I mean that none of the trappings of “church” are fostering worship in my life? You are absolutely correct. It’s You and HIM...THAT’S IT!!! You and the God of the universe are one on one. No one can lead you to worship. No building will foster worship. No music constitutes true worship (neither traditional or contemporary, for those of you whom are in bondage to that train of thought). It’s just YOU and HIM. As it says I Romans 12, “offer YOURSELF as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-- for THIS is your spiritual act or worship”. That act, and that act alone, establishes a relationship where your worship is validated by the presence of God and that you are a worshiper who worships in spirit and in truth.

Well, brother Pat...You are telling me that I’ve gone to church for sixty-plus years, served on every possible church committee, tithed regularly, offered money to buy pews and flowers for the bereaved and sick, cooked in the kitchen, sang in the choir, played the piano, rang the church bell, cleaned the toilets, evangelized and taught Sunday School, coached youth ball teams, printed bulletins, and even drove the church bus and may not have ever truly worshiped God? YEP! BINGO! That’s exactly what I’m telling you! The Word says our “works are as filthy rags”. They do absolutely nothing to enhance our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The next part of the Romans 12 scripture tells us this...” Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Everything question above represents “conformity” to what the church today represents as the “worship” experience. That, dear friend, comes from the Hebrew word “Bah-Loah-Ney” better known to us as Baloney!! If we are to know the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God we are to no longer conform to the mindset of this world (and don’t think for a minute that the church today isn’t filled with worldly concepts and attitudes. Don’t believe it? Just tell your preacher that you’ve started an initiative to cut his salary and benefits in half and see if he’s “led” to stay!!). We are to be transformed by the “renewing” of our minds. If we are to RE-new our minds, then He must have had a different idea beforehand that we’ve wandered away from.

The natural by-product of worshipping in spirit and in truth is knowing the good, pleasing, and perfect will of the Father, which is His desire to have a relationship with you that is dynamic and so vital to your very existence that it is pre-eminent above all things of this world. True worshipers must be few and far between, why else would God have to “seek” them. Are you a true worshiper? That question should cause you to look deep and hard for the answer. Above all else, be honest in your answer. Are you??

Next week we’ll look at “The Field Of Dreams” theology of worship....”Build it...and they will come”....

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Your comments or questions are always welcome. Email them to: patcorn@maizeone.com

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