



**TRUE WORSHIP sermon by Ron Zedick**

**Opening statement: Worship is presenting your body as a living sacrifice.**

**Scripture reading: [John 4:23-24](#); [Philippians 3:3](#)<sup>[1]</sup>**

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth (**[John 4:23-24](#)**).

For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh (**[Philippians 3:3](#)**).

Dallas Burdette asked this question of his congregation in 1998 and I will ask it as he did-

If someone were to ask you to define worship, how would you explain it? If someone were to question you as to where worship takes place, how would you respond? Is worship confined to a specific time frame? For instance, does worship begin at 10:00 am and stop at 11:00 am? Is worship like a faucet that one cuts on or off at will? Is worship something that you perform once a week? Is participation in preaching, singing, praying, giving, and breaking bread in the communion on Sunday morning spoken of as worship in the New Testament? Is involvement in one of these five acts on Sunday morning called worship in the New Testament? Or are these five rituals in and of themselves worship? Do the Scriptures ever define one of the above five acts as worship? Do we not engage in these activities because we are worshipers of the one true God?

Worship among many Christians is generally identified with a so-called worship service. But does the New Testament ever speak of a “worship service” or does it ever speak of one “going to worship”? Listen to this which I read and reread this week.

R. L. Kilpatrick writes:

He didn't say one single word about performing a Sunday a.m. ritual. . . . I have come to the conclusion that God never gave any such instructions to the church, that it is not taught in the Bible, that there is not a single instance where God, an apostle, or any inspired writer ever instructed the church to come together to perform a worship service. A corporate form of worship is not taught in the Bible. **There are a number of instances where the Christian community assembled,**

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**for a variety of reasons, but never for the express purpose of engaging in items of worship.** We are instructed to meet together to “exhort one another to love and good works,” for mutual edification, to encourage to admonish, to take care of brotherhood problems (like the man who married his father’s wife, taking brethren to law, resolving the Gentile question (Acts 15), and a number of other reasons, but never to perform public (corporate) “acts” which we call “worship” (emphasis mine—RDB).<sup>2[2]</sup>

It is most important that in the church we understand true worship. Those congregations who met God in a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in true worship have all but seen it disappear. Why? Because they forgot the definition of true worship and supplanted it with a liturgical substitute which nullified the working of the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday night we talked in Bible Study about the great spiritual movements of God in churches. Spiritual Awakenings which rocked the world and transformed mankind.

Recently Derek Jones brought me a book on The Welsh Revival. One of the greatest movements of God in a hundreds of years in Europe. It spilled over into England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France, the United States and so many more countries. It is said of Walse, it was as if God stopped time to present himself to man.

But where are we today in Walse. Few go to church, it is nearing distinction in the minds of most Welch people.

The Congregational Church in the 1700’s was the center of great movements of God. It is said that the greatest preachers and the greatest power of the Holy Spirit in America was poured out through this church. But how many Congegational churches do you know of. It is nearly a dead demonation.

So what happened. When revival began to wain was when the church readopted its liturgy over the work of the church. The door to door evangelism, the all night prayer services, the fasting and prayer, the wailing bench for sinners, and the great acts of benevolence and community work with the ill, the poor, and the destitute was replaced by liturgical worship.

Paul the early apostle of the church was concerned that the Judiaizes were taking away the true worship for a false one. Worship is not at a time and place prescribed by local leaders, but it is a spiritual sacrifice of self on a daily basis.

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 (**Romans 12:1-**

**John 4:1-24 gives us Jesus encounter with a woman at the well and His instructions in true worship.**

In the Old Testament, the Jews went up to the Temple to worship. They offered their sacrifices at the Temple, which constituted their worship. But today we are the Temple of God. The Christian dies to self and is resurrected.

Even though God commanded ritualism in the Old Testament, Jesus is now saying that in the eschatological age, worship would no longer employ a mechanical form such as the rituals performed on Mount Moriah and Mount Gerizim, but rather a worship that flows out of a grateful heart for salvation made available through Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In

other words, His people would no longer “live according to the sinful nature but live lives that are led by the Spirit of God” (**Romans 8:4**, emphasis mine). True worship is no longer located in a particular geographical place and the performance of certain rituals, but it is something that takes place in every Christian on a daily basis—twenty-four hours a day.

Again, I ask, What do you mean when you say you are worshipping God? It seems that many Christians do not clearly differentiate between liturgy and true worship. There is still a tendency on the part of many to go back to mechanical forms of the Christian life and worship through rituals. And these rituals are identified as true worship—not the presenting of one’s life as a living sacrifice. Today, so-called Christian worship has been reverting to a set forms; Christians have been persuaded that this is true worship. But true worship is not adherence to assigned rituals discharged in a defined manner. The litmus test to apply to true worship is to look at one’s ethical behavior. There have been those who knew true worship and maintained it for years.

Several years ago a church in Pensacola, Florida had a revival week. God moved and rather than returning to traditions they decided to continue the acts of the church of true worship which had produced this great movement of God. They hired the evangelist and had meetings each evening of the week for the lost to be saved, for sinners to repent, for healings to take place, for encouragement in the word and in fellowship, and they went to the community to act out their sacrificial lifestyle of service. The church was filled each night for 5 years. The **Brownsville Revival** (also known as the **Pensacola Outpouring**) was a widely-reported religious phenomenon that began within the Pentecostal movement on Father's Day June 18, 1995 at Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida.<sup>[1]</sup> Characteristics of the Brownsville Revival movement, as with other Christian religious revivals, included acts of repentance by parishioners and a call to holiness, said to be inspired by the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Some of the occurrences in this revival fit the description of moments of religious ecstasy. More than four million people are reported to have attended the meetings from its beginnings in 1995 to around 2000 This revival continued even today as many churches were started from this revival and over 200,000 were saved, and many more healed.

What was the difference? This church, and this people decided to allow the Holy Spirit sovereign reign over their lives sacrificially and for five years, and even today the Brownsville Revival has it’s effects continuing even though it’s leaders have all left the church.

Jesus describes this kind of course of action in His Sermon on the Mount. Worship has nothing to do with the geographical location of a particular building or certain rituals performed on Sunday morning. Today, we are the Temple of God and worship takes place within us.

Prior to this admonition about days, Paul encouraged all the believers 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” (**Romans 12:1-2**). What does it mean to present your body a living sacrifice? Listen to Paul as he enumerates ways in which one worships God:

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.<sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something

to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (**Romans 12:9-21**).

Worship is Holiness before God, becoming a living sacrifice as you recognize the sinfulness of mankind, the Holiness of God and the need for the Holy Spirit to be in complete control of your life at all times. That is the worship our God requires and that is the worship we need to exhibit.