

## WORSHIP AND ITS REALITY TO ME

Should we not, as followers of Christ, be enthusiastic as the first day of the week dawns on our lives? It is the day set aside (1 Cor. 16:1-2; Heb. 10:25) to join our brothers and sisters in Christ (Acts 11:26) to worship God (Heb. 13:15), our Creator.

As I enter the building, I am filled with excitement to extend my hand of fellowship, friendship, love, and respect to the brethren. I listen carefully—is there a need or prayer I can offer to ease one’s pain? Then we begin to sing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15). Can you imagine each voice blending together in one melody? What a fragrant and sweet aroma to God! Shortly afterwards we are led in prayer (Acts 2:42). We offer our praise, petitions, and our thanksgivings to our Father Who loves and cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7).

Then it is time to give of our means (1 Cor. 16:1-2)—yes, time to help the Lord’s church reach out with the Gospel’s plan of salvation (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-27) to those in sin’s darkness as well as to help those in need (Gal. 2:10, 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:17-18).

Now, it’s time for the Lord’s Supper (Matt. 26:26-29; Acts 20:7). In my mind I can see the “Last Supper” in real time. I see my Savior give to His apostles the bread and the fruit of the vine (Mark 14:22-25). Though centuries have passed, I can see my Lord give the same elements to me, saying, “This do in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). I can see the torture in His eyes. I can see the betrayal, the kiss and arrest in the garden (Luke 22:47-54). I see the trials, scourging, the scarlet robe, and twisted crown of thorns upon my dear Lord’s head. I see the taunting, the slap, and the saliva that was delivered to the face of my Lord (Matt. 27:26-31). I see Jesus struggling to carry the cross (John 19:17). I can painfully, in my heart, hear the nails tear through His flesh. What an awesome love Jesus has for His creation (Luke 23:34a)! I cry when I think that my Lord gave Himself to die (Luke 23:46) - but at the same time, I feel a joy unspeakable and so unimaginable - my Savior has risen from the dead (Matt. 28:5-8, Mark 16:6-8; Luke 24:6-12; John 20:1-10) for me and for all mankind!

Now it is time for another breaking of bread; it is time for the sermon (1 Cor. 1:18-21; 1 Thess. 2:3-12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 3:8-10; 4:12). I hear the speaker challenge me to study God’s Word and examine myself (2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Tim. 2:15). This is not the time to read a book, write notes, play with the children, think of the day’s events, doze off, etc.

My soul is at risk. I need to grow as a Christian. I am not told what to believe by a delegation, a creed, a manual, a convention or conclave. I believe because I have studied for myself (2 Tim. 2:15) and have learned to do the Will of God. Unfortunately, the time with my brethren is over, for now! I leave excited, ready to face the “Father of lies.” I leave knowing God’s Word better and that God loves me. I look forward to the very next time we meet!

**Editor’s note from B. J. Clarke:** *The author of this article has been unable to attend worship for some time now because of continual health problems. His article speaks clearly to us of the joys of assembling with the saints, and the pain of not being able to do so. Let us never take the opportunity to worship for granted.*

**Nelson J. Green, Jr. from Eastside Edifier**

## WORSHIP IN TRUTH

**1. Worship in truth must include the teaching and preaching of God’s Word.** An example or pattern of this can be seen in the case of the apostle Paul at Troas. **Acts 20:7** states, “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*” This is an apostolic example of preaching being in the worship assembly.

**2. Worship in truth must include giving or laying by in store, as a contribution upon the first day of the week.** Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 16:2**, “*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*” This emphasizes the personal, individual responsibility of each member to give upon the first day of every week a part of that which God has prospered us.

**3. Worship in truth must include partaking of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice upon the cross in our behalf.** The church at Troas is an example of those who kept this memorial supper upon the first day of the week. Paul even tarried in the city of Troas so that he could observe the Lord’s Supper with the church there upon the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7). We are to partake of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (grape juice) in remembrance of the death of Christ upon the first day of every week.

**4. Worship in truth must include prayer.** In **Acts 2:42** we read where the church at Jerusalem, “*...continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*” This passage includes the acts of worship which we have discussed so far. The “apostles’ doctrine” refers to their teaching and preaching of God’s Word. “Fellowship” refers to their giving. “Breaking of bread” refers to partaking of the Lord’s Supper together. And, “prayers” refers to the common practice of the early church to pour out their souls unto God in prayer and supplication.

**5. Worship in truth must include singing.** Paul wrote in **Ephesians 5:19**, “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*” This teaches that the instrument we use is our heart. We are not to attempt to worship God with a mechanical instrument or a machine, because God has specified the human heart as the instrument. Further, we are to sing and make melody in our hearts “to the Lord.” He is the one worthy of our worship, praise and adoration.

God will accept only one kind of worship: true worship. “*God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*” Let us ever seek to worship our Heavenly Father with the right attitude (in spirit) and according to Divine truth (in truth) that our worship may be acceptable to Him and that we may glorify Him.

**Ted J. Thrasher from IBS Tract**

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Jared Nelson, Evan Pflugardt, Millie Robertson (PM). Louise Dodson had carpal tunnel surgery on Friday, December 1. Susan Cotterill will have surgery on Friday, December 15 at Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

Joel and Cindy Nelson returned from their vacation last week. The Greer's were in Independence, MO last Sunday night. The Parish family was away last Sunday.

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, December 10 following our AM worship.

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Please check and correct your family information on the list posted on the bulletin board as soon as possible.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 55; Sunday PM, 41; Wednesday PM, 44.

*"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."* **2 Corinthians 9:7**

*"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."* **2 Corinthians 8:12**

# **Those To Serve**

**December 10, 2006**

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Ken Greer**  
**PRESIDE..... Steve Brown**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**ASSIST..... David Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Steve Brown**

### **WEDNESDAY 13th**

**SONG LEADER..... Myron Nebergall**  
**INVITATION ..... Jeremy Keifer**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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