

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider: John 6:45 Needed News

Joyce Venable, Dolline Fain and **Conrad Harris** continue to deal with their respective health issues. **Dolline** is feeling very tired. Her daughter, Rhonda Kidder, is dealing with a cold-like virus. **Joyce** is feeling tired following a trip to get their son & granddaughter back home..

Annette Gray had cataract surgery last Monday. She had to get some treatment for infection early but is doing fine now.

Paula Laubach is recovering well from her swollen ankle and respiratory problems.

Nettie Jackson is in the hospital. **Jordan Wright** stayed with her last night.

Ricky Ragsdale is in a nursing home for therapy. RC Ragsdale has been visiting with his parents during his time off from work.

Phyllis Jackson should return from California this week.

The **Simpson** Family is in Star City this weekend. **Amy's** back problems are doing much better.

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

August 2015

Volume 4 Number 29

Improving Our Worship

Bill Hall

Our lack of fervency and reverence in worship is a matter of grave concern to all spiritually minded people. We have often caught ourselves singing, but not worshipping; bowing our heads, but not praying; sitting through a sermon, but not participating in a study of God's word. Such action is mockery, bringing condemnation on the "worshipper" rather than God's approval.

What is the solution to the problem? Some have sought for the solution in spontaneous singing and chain prayers. A group meets for a devotional period. No song numbers are announced: somebody just starts a song, and everybody joins in. Instead of one person leading the prayer, all the men take part, each one adding his little bit until the last man in the circle gives the final "amen." In addition, lights may be turned down and all in the circle hold hands. The purpose behind this practice is to help people feel closer to God as they worship.

I am not questioning the scripturalness of this practice, but if someone thinks it holds the key to our problems of worship, I believe him to be absolutely wrong. Or if such practice lead participants to look disdainfully on "led" singing or "led" prayers, considering such to be an inferior way of worship, they become downright dangerous. Improvement in worship is not brought about by changing the order or externals of worship, but changing the hearts of men. It comes from stronger faith and greater love for the Lord.

When we come to love the Lord and appreciate His sacrifice as we ought, such words as, "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, And wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned, unclean," will awaken an immediate response in our hearts, so that with genuine fervor we will sing, "How marvelous! How wonderful!

And my song shall ever be; How marvelous! How wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me." And whether the song is led by a song leader will become a matter of indifference.

When we develop a true consciousness of God -- a consciousness of His greatness, His presence, His concern, His love, His awareness, His listening ear -- and an appreciation of our own littleness and unworthiness, we will begin praying as we ought.

Spontaneous singing and chain prayers only provide temporary help in treating the symptom. But what we need is to get to the root of our problem, our own lack of faith and love for the Lord.

We shall try, but we will never in this life reach perfection in worship. But one day we will see our Lord. A consciousness of what He has done for us will sweep our souls as never before. And awareness of our hopelessness without Him will stir our spirits. And then -- and possibly only then -- we will break forth in praise with the sincere adoration which He deserves. And we are quite sure it won't take any artificial form or arrangement of worship to prompt our bursting forth in praise on the wonderful occasion.

The Jackson Drive Admonisher, Vol. 6, No. 1, Jan. 2004.

The Worship Service

Bubba Garner

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go up to the house of the Lord'" (Psa. 122:1). It seems that we are losing our sense of delight and enthusiasm when it comes to worshiping with the people of God. What a grand opportunity that we have been afforded, yet we often dread its coming instead of rejoicing with what it brings. We owe it to ourselves and to the Lord to give Him the very best of what we have to offer on His day.

Be Here: There is no way that you can benefit or be benefitted if you choose not to come to the services of the church. The purpose of worship is not only to praise and express gratitude to our God, it is to draw closer to one another as we draw closer to Him. By being here, you demonstrate your interest in spiritual things and your desire to

please Him; showing up, however, is not the only thing required of you.

Be Prepared: This speaks not only of the need to prepare your lesson for Bible class, but to prepare your mind. We go to great lengths to watch what we put into our body, but take no thought as to what our minds are exposed to. Let's not pollute our senses or the house of God with such immoral and filthy thoughts that are prevalent in the world today. Rather, let's come into His presence with prepared hearts and minds for worship.

Be Reverent: Remember what you're doing. This is not some sporting contest or entertainment event, this is a worship service. We are communing with the same God that spoke the world into existence, created man from the dust of the ground, and authorized the plan of salvation. Does He not deserve our utmost respect and admiration? "Let us show gratitude, by which we offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe" (Heb. 12:28).

Be A Participant: Nothing is more discouraging to the song leader than one who does not sing and to the preacher than one who does not listen. More importantly, the Lord is displeased with one who does not participate in the services. "I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart in the company of the upright and in the assembly" (Psa. 111:1). Acceptable worship means whole-hearted worship and making an effort to be an active participant in the activities of the services. Just because you are not the one leading the singing, say the prayers, or doing the preaching or teaching does not mean your duties are relinquished. Be in tune with what is going on.

Worship is a commandment, worship is a blessing, and worship is a choice. You will get no more out of the services of the church than what you put into them. Give the Lord your very best today and receive the best of what worship has to offer you.

Gospel Power, Vol. 11, No. 1, Jan. 4, 2004

(Much of the religious world today sees worship as something that will bring about some sort of emotional reaction in self. The only way to improve our worship is to work diligently at making sure we present our offerings as humble servants. In properly honoring God with worship we will lift our own attitude and be blessed. Is your worship truly an offering to God? DLH)