

For Our Information

Betty Ragsdale is a little better after dealing with a painful ear last week. She is scheduled for tests later this week regarding her heart, then doctors will consider what is the best course of action.

John LaValla went back to UAMS last week because of fluid buildup, low electrolytes and dehydration

Jonathan and Jon Ross Simpson are out of town this weekend.

Prayers to God are greatly appreciated by our brethren.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

between mere attendance of a worship service and truly acceptable worship. I am not condoning sloppily conducted worship periods. Leaders in worship should seek to avoid mistakes and to do their work effectively. But acceptable worship depends far more on the heart and attitude of the worshiper than on the abilities of leaders. Our first man may point the finger of blame at others, but his real need is a total change of attitude within himself.

(We must understand that worship is much more than showing up for services. I hope that our recent Sunday Morning classes have helped us better understand what is involved in truly worshipping God as He desires. Certainly they have shown what God expects of us in our assemblies and work together.

The contrast in the above article is very helpful in pointing out the differences in attending and worshipping with the saints. Brother Hall has published a number of articles like this dealing with many topics that are needed to help us walk according to Scripture. If I remember correctly, many of them can be found in a book titled, Two Men. This and many other books by brethren are readily available for study. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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Two Men Attend Worship Services

Bill Hall

Two men attend worship services. The first man attends wholly out of a sense of duty. He understands the teaching of **Hebrews 10:25**: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," and is determined to obey faithfully that teaching. He will not allow anything within his power to stand in the way of his attending the worship periods of the church.

The second man recognizes his duty in this matter too, but his primary motivation in attendance is his love for the Lord and his joy in blending his voice and heart with other Christians in praise and adoration to the Lord. He delights in worship and the spiritual strength he derives through worship.



Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

The first man is mentally passive throughout the worship service. If the words of the song happen to catch his attention, he observes and appreciates them. Otherwise, he just sings along with little concern for what he is singing. If the sermon is interesting, he listens. Otherwise, he just relaxes, and hopes the time won't drag too badly. He does meditate briefly concerning Christ's suffering and death as he partakes of the supper, for somehow the importance of the memorial feast has been impressed upon his mind.

The second man comes mentally prepared to worship. He pays close attention to the words of each song and makes the sentiment of the songs his own sentiment. In fact, he sometimes studies the words of frequently used songs so he will be sure he understands their meaning. Depth of meaning is of greater importance to him than a catchy tune or rhythmic beat. He listens to each phrase of the prayer that is led, and if he can approve the petitions of the prayer, he unites with the one who leads with his "Amen." He discerns the Lord's body as he breaks bread, and he listens carefully to the sermon, volunteering his attention, hiding the word in his heart, that he might not sin against God (**Psalm 119:11**). If his mind wanders occasionally, he brings it back to the worship. He worships with a consciousness of God as the object of his worship, the One toward whom these expressions of adoration are directed.

The first man reduces his service to a mere code of external rites, while the second man obeys "from the heart," combining the outward with the inward. The first man is more likely to be satisfied with his service to the Lord, for he has accepted the easier standard, but it is the second man who enjoys God's approval. *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (**John 4:24**).

Two men sincerely try to worship. The first man, though, is frustrated throughout. His frustrations begin with the opening announcements when the man in charge takes ten minutes to say what any normal man could say in three. He is hardly over that when the song leader adds to his frustrations, selecting a

Store In My Heart

Proverbs 1:8-9

Hear, my son, your father's instruction
And do not forsake your mother's teaching;
Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head
And ornaments about your neck.

Short verses full of wisdom. That is what comes to mind when I think of Proverbs. We should also remember that much of these verses seem to be from wise King Solomon to his son.

This book gives wisdom to any who are willing to study. It also contains a few discourses on specific topics. Most remembered is probably the wife of the last chapter, but let us not forget that is contrasted by the wicked woman of the first chapter or so. Let us take advantage of all the wisdom of Proverbs.

song he is sure contains an unscriptural phrase. The man who presides at the table doesn't help when he uses the term "loaf" instead of "bread," and then the man who is called on to "give thanks for the bread" gives thanks for everything but the bread. The preacher makes a major contribution by totally misapplying a passage of scripture ("He probably didn't spend enough time on that one," the man thinks). When the worship period is finally dismissed, he tries to share his frustrations with those around him, but no one seems to care.

The second man observes many of the mistakes the first man observes. In fact, without fanfare he just doesn't sing the questionable phrase in the song and he silently thanks God for the bread when he realizes the leader's failure to do so. But while observing mistakes, he focuses attention on the good sentiments of the songs that are used, and on the death of his Savior during the Lord's Supper. He makes the prayer that is led his own and appreciates the good thoughts presented in the lesson. He has come to worship God. He makes allowances for human frailty on the part of the leaders in worship, appreciates their sincere efforts, and refuses to let their mistakes keep him from his purpose.

The first man is to be pitied. His ability to "worship" is dependent on the ability of the leaders in the worship period, and any half-observant person knows how inept that leadership can be at times. He comes to worship, but spends the hour criticizing. He blames others for that which is really his own problem. Consequently, his problem with worship becomes a problem also with his brethren; but one cannot have a problem with his worship and his brethren without having a problem in his relationship with God.

The second man, by maintaining a positive attitude toward his brethren, even when they make mistakes, is able to worship acceptably and is drawn closer to God by his worship.

In which of these two men do you see a reflection of yourself? The need is obvious! We must cast off our laziness and indifference, revitalize our spirits, and bring ourselves to worship God acceptably. There is a considerable difference