

*Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

**2Peter 1:10**

## Store In My Heart

### 2Corinthians 5:11

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

About a year after the earlier letter Paul again wrote to the brethren in Corinth. He was now in Macedonia and would visit them before long. This letter points out some things that need to be corrected still among these brethren. Unity in the spread of the Gospel and the need to be holy in all of life take up a large portion of this writing. Instructions about giving and Paul's defense of his ministry are also included.

The problems at Corinth stemmed from their focus on self rather than Christ and one another. This is a continual problem among the people of God. We must willingly give up self or we will never grow in our service to God. We must think less of self, more of Him.



# Are You Focused On Giving or Getting?

**Ken Weliever**

“I didn’t get anything out of worship today,” is a remark sometimes offered by disappointed church attendees.

These disgruntled “worshippers” soon find themselves relating to anyone who will listen to how awful the sermon was, how the song leader pitched the songs too high, the distractions by noisy children, and the general lack of inspiration they felt from the service.

Joe McKeever said such remarks are “like dry rot in a congregation...Like a termite infestation in the building...Like an epidemic afflicting the people of the Lord.” Unchecked, they will spread like a deadly virus. Such complaints reflect a lack of understanding about what “going to church” really means. Worship is not about you. And me. Worship is about God. Exalting Him. Honoring Him. Giving Him praise.

While those conducting the service ought to do their very best in leading the minds and hearts of the congregation, it’s ultimately up to us individually to focus our minds upon the Lord and to worship Him. Neither the preacher, nor the pastors, nor the song leader can worship for me. It’s a choice that I make. Even when the service and the circumstances are less than ideal. Furthermore, worship is a verb. An active

## Contact Us

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

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is doing a little better after a medication change.

Brenda Keisler has visits scheduled to see about her hip.

Jerry Henderson is still doing about the same.

Dan & JoBeth will be in AL most of this week. John Ragsdale will be teaching the Wednesday night class.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 6:12.

Join us for all these studies.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

verb. Worship is not something that is done to us. It's something that we do. We are not mere spectators, seeking to be entertained. We come to participate. To be involved. And to be engaged.

If we walk away from a worship service feeling, "I didn't get anything out of it," are we feeling the same way about our religion? Are we viewing Christianity as mere membership in a church that offers us material, social, or emotional benefits?

Do we come to worship only to get? Or to give?

Dee Bowman was right when he wrote, "The success of Christianity is not measured by what you get out of it, but by what it gets out of you."

via The Preacher's Word; Beverly Hills, Florida.

(The Preacher's Word is another of the internet blogs I visit from time to time. If you are interested in receiving the regular postings on that site you can subscribe via email. I am pretty sure you can also "Like" Ken Weliever or "The Preacher's Word" on Facebook also. As I have mentioned several times over the few years, sites such as this are a valuable resource that can help us in our understanding of Scripture and our service to God.

The article above remains focused on worship issues, but I wonder if the same principle applies in all parts of our service to God. Have you ever ended a personal Bible study and thought, "I really did not get much out of this."? If so, and I am sure it has happened to all of us sometime, did you take the time right then to consider how much you put into the study? Were you distracted while you were studying with what needed to be done around the house? Did you have music playing in the background that crept into your thoughts? Did you just read through a short passage of Scripture without taking time to meditate on what you read? Each of these things would be an indication that I was not really putting my focus on study at that time. We need to understand the need to put something into our study time if we expect to get something from it. Would this principle apply to visiting our brethren? Helping the needy? Consider Carefully DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!