

# THE BEACON OF TRUTH

August 18, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

## Getting the Most Out of Worship

Brandon Baggett

Upon occasion, church members will make the statement, “I just didn’t get much out of worship today.” When such shallow remarks are made, this writer often wonders, “how much did you personally put into worshipping God today?” God’s children should greatly benefit from worshipping Him. When the psalmist contemplated the privilege of worshipping God, he said, “a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness” (Psalm 84:10). Just a few verses prior, the penman declared, “Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee” (Psalm 84:4). Worshipping God is a blessing, and it is a practice which can enrich our lives as we journey towards our heavenly home.

Unfortunately, some have grown bored with worship. Singing songs of praise, bowing in prayer, listening intently to a message from God’s word, giving monetarily to the cause of God, and partaking of the Lord’s Supper has become inconsequential, mundane, and uninteresting to them. Thus, many churches have added special singing groups, special music, and even instruments to replace or compliment congregational singing. Others have ousted Gospel preaching for dramatic readings, inspirational stories, and testimonials. Anything boring or “traditional” has been replaced for something to help create a “wonderful worship experience.” Consequently, much of the modern-day worship appeases the flesh, but it does not appease the Father. It may provide a cheap, momentary, and “spiritual” thrill, but it does not extol the God of this Universe, and it cannot provide the inherent benefits of “in spirit and in truth” worship God desires (John 4:24).

How can we benefit from worship without making our worship sensational? What must the child of God do to get the most out of worship? The answer to these questions is not found in changing worship, but it comes when we change our attitude, approach, and appreciation for worship. The problem is not with what we are doing, but it often lies with how we are doing it. Therefore, the following are three things every child of God must do to get the most out of every worship service.

**FIRST, WE MUST BE PRESENT.** If we expect to be enriched by an occasional visit to the church building for worship, we are going to miss out on the real joy of worshipping God. Sadly, the thimble sized spiritual tank of some church members can be filled with one hour of worship a week. However, every time God’s people assemble for worship, we ought to make it a priority to be present. This is the exact thought of Hebrews 10:25. There, the Hebrew writer exhorted his recipients to not forsake “the assembling of ourselves together.” Notice how the writer did not reference one specific assembly (as in just the Sunday morning assembly), but he was speaking of the act of God’s people assembling for worship. Whenever God’s people assemble for worship, we ought to be present if (continued on page 2)

## By the Numbers:

Week of 8/11/19

Contribution – \$2439

Attendance:

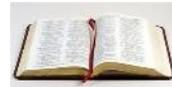
Sunday Bible Classes – 34

Sunday Worship\* – 63

Wednesday Night – 35

\*Total for the day

## Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: False. The Law is made for the lawless and disobedient, etc. (1 Tim. 1:9-10).

Q: To what are the sins listed in 1 Tim. 1:9-10 contrary?

Answer to be given next week!

## Guest Speakers Today:

AM — Jarrod Schooley

PM — Xander Schooley

### Schedule Of Services

Sunday  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.  
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

### Website

Beaconcofc.com

### Preacher

Chase Green  
318-608-7418

### Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296  
Tim Green 318-547-4026

### Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - India  
Marlon Retana - Panama  
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2326 JONESBORO ROAD  
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WEST MONROE, LA 71294

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**NEWS AND NOTES**  
**TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME**

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Marcia Green, Kevin Green, Jerry Tippen, Wendy Traweek, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kathy Lawrence, Virginia Wainwright, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young, Stetson Ortega, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Bettie Young & Anthony & Betsy Ortega (Traveling home from Stetson's appointment in Houston today), Chase Green & Family (Traveling in TN this week at Polishing the Pulpit; returning Thursday)

**OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: Next Sunday in between services.

(continued from page 1)

we are going to benefit from the real joys of worshipping Him.

**SECOND, WE MUST PARTICIPATE.** Worship is not a spectator sport. The real joy of worshipping God will not come if we wish to sit in the pew and watch others worship. We will gain the very most out of worship if we engage ourselves in each act. Instead of sitting silently while others sing, we ought to whole heartedly engage ourselves in the song service. Instead of looking at others while they give, we ought to have purposed in our heart to contribute too. Instead of daydreaming, sleeping, talking, passing notes, or walking around the church building during the sermon, we ought to open our Bible, engage our mind, and attempt to extract as much as we can from the message. We must participate! May we adopt the personal and passionate attitude of the Psalmist: "I will praise thee with my whole heart" (Psalm 138:1).

**THIRD, WE MUST DO A PERSONAL EXAMINATION.** Worship is not only a time for praising God, but it is a time for personal examination. When Paul wrote about the Lord's Supper, he said, "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28). Instead of contemplating Sunday lunch, remembering last night's football game, thinking about fishing, or considering anything temporal, we ought to be scrutinizing our heart. Imagine how much we would gain out of worship if we applied this to every act of worship! Just envision meditating upon these thoughts during worship: What does this song teach or remind me? How could I be a better giver and steward of my blessings? How does this sermon apply to me? How could I do better in light of the sacrifice Christ made for me? How am I doing in my prayer life? Make it personal!

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

***James 3:13-18***  
***Chase Green***

**Verse 13:** "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." This rhetorical question is meant to encourage introspection. If you were to ask the average person on the street if he is wise and knowledgeable, probably nine times out of ten the person would say, "Yes." But James equates knowledge and wisdom with a good lifestyle characterized by good works and meekness.

Certainly it is not the case that nine out of ten people lead truly good, moral lifestyles characterized by good works and meekness. Thus, most people could not be rightly called "wise and knowledgeable." True wisdom comes from the Father above (James 1:5), and, as stated many ways in the book of Proverbs, can only come from a healthy fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7; 2:5; et al.).

**Verse 14:** "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." Envy and strife is not something to boast about. In fact, the only way that envy and strife can come about is if one or more people are prideful: "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom" (Prov. 13:10). It is a flat out lie to believe that one can be prideful, envious, and a lover of strife and be right with God.

**Verses 15-16:** "This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." The false, so-called "wisdom" that nine out of ten (or more) people possess is not true wisdom at all. It is self-ascribed "wisdom." It is purely self-centered. It is not concerned with what is right and wrong, but what feels good. It satisfies the temporary earthly (worldly), sensual (fleshly) desires, and it is from the Devil.

Envying and strife are telltale signs that a person is caught up in all the wrong things. He is not concerned with spirituality. Rather, he is only concerned with his own selfish, sinful desires. Consequently, if someone or something were to stand in the way of his selfish desires, he will react in bitter envy and strife, stooping to whatever means necessary to satisfy himself. Thus, "confusion and every evil work" has its seed in false, sinful "wisdom." (See also 1 Cor. 1:18-31 for Paul's discussion of true wisdom vs. worldly "wisdom").

**Verse 17:** "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be in-treated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Those who practice true spiritual wisdom are those whose lifestyles can be summed up with the following Christian virtues: purity of life, peaceableness, gentleness, approachable, merciful, bearing good fruits, impartial, and not hypocritical. Take any one of these out of the equation, and it becomes clear that a person is not a true, faithful Christian. At the very least, he's a struggling one that needs to reclaim his Christian priorities, and it is quite possible that he is a phony, practicing a faith that is feigned, something that both Paul and Peter warned against in 1 Tim. 1:5 and 1 Pet. 1:22, respectively.

**Verse 18:** "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." Jesus stressed this in the Beatitudes when He said: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Mat. 5:9). If only we took this more seriously, the church would be in much better shape, and so would the world!

With love, Chase

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."  
James 5:13

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FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth  
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