

Continued from Page Three, "THE SCRIPTURES ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT"

- Protection against sin - **1 John 2:1**
- An assurance of eternal life - **1 John 5:13**
- Standard by which teachers are tested - **Acts 17:11**
- Standard which we cannot go beyond - **1 Cor. 4:6**
- Blessings from God - **Rev. 1:3**
- Joy that is complete - **1 John 1:3-4**
- Standard of judgment - **Rev. 20:12**

tains from it all the things mentioned above, what else would he need? Do not men cast reflection on God when they imply that God failed to provide everything necessary for salvation? God declared that man is equipped for every good work through the Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Who has the right to say that man is not equipped for every good work through the Scriptures?

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦

If one reads and studies the New Testament and ob-

THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (**Col. 1:18**). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (**Eph. 1:22-23**). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (**Eph. 3:6**). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (**Eph. 2:16**). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (**Matt. 16:18**). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (**Acts 20:28**), the one in which He is the Saviour of (**Eph. 5:23**).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (**Rom. 16:16**), then he is not saved. ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17** m. **10:9-10** ; **1 Pet. 3:21** ; **John 6:45; 17:3**
- Believe - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**
- Repent - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**
- Confess the Lord - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**
- Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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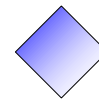


Schedule of Assembly

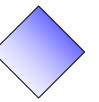
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



August 14, 2011

Acceptable Worship By Jimmy Pettigrew

There are at least four kinds of worship alluded to in the New Testament: (1) ignorant worship (**Acts 17:23**); (2) vain worship (**Matthew 15:9**); (3) will worship (**Colossians 2:23**); and (4) spiritual and true worship (**Romans 12:2; John 4:23-24**). In **Hebrews 12:28**, it says that worship must be done "acceptably." One reason the Lord's church exists is so Christians can come together and worship God (**1 Corinthians 11:18, 20, 33-34; Hebrews 10:25**). God demands that we worship Him and Him alone (**Matthew 4:10**). In **Revelation 22:9**, the angel admonished John to "worship God."

But what does the Bible say regarding acceptable worship? What is God's will on the matter? Worship is either right or wrong depending upon God's will. The only right worship is that which is authorized by God! "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (**John 4:23-24**). Notice the word "must." What does this say about how we worship? We are to worship God "acceptably with reverence and godly fear (awe)" (**Hebrews 12:28**). Worship must be "in spirit," that is, the worshiper must genuinely engage his spirit in the worship activity. He must be mentally and emotionally involved. "I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (**Psalms 122:1**).

Also, worship must be "in truth." God has always required that man approach Him "in truth," according to the divine commands which he revealed to man. In **Genesis 4:3-7**, we have the account of the worship of Cain and Abel. God accepted Abel's worship but rejected Cain's. Why? Because one did the will of the Lord, while the other chose to disobey God's instructions. We know that God told them what to offer as sacrifice from the reading found in **Hebrews 11:4**: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and

by it he being dead yet speaketh." "By faith" is the key. That simply means that Abel was told what to do, then believed and obeyed the instructions. Furthermore, Cain was also told what to do, but for some reason chose not to fully obey the instructions of the Lord. As a consequence of his conduct, God rejected his worship. God plainly told him, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him" (**Gen. 4:7**). Partial obedience is not obedience, but disobedience!

In **Leviticus 10:1-2**, we read of another example of not worshipping God in truth. We can learn the importance of worshipping just as God instructs from the example of Nadab and Abihu (**Leviticus 10:1-2**). What was wrong with their worship? They "offered strange fire before Jehovah, which he had not commanded them." What happened to them? "There came forth fire from before Jehovah and, devoured them, and they died before Jehovah." Paul wrote, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope" (**Romans 15:4**). So, what does **Leviticus 10:1-2** teach us? We must not add to or take away from God's word (**Revelation 22:18-19**). We must abide in the doctrine of Christ (**2 John 9**). We do not have the authority to decide how we are going to worship God. We MUST worship as He instructs! (**Colossians 3:17**).

Unfortunately, the current atmosphere in the church tends to treat worship as a time for entertaining the worshiper and catering to the worshiper's wants. People have lost the deep, reverent mind-set that approaches the worship assembly with a strong sense of respect and careful meaning to please God. Worship is important! It is not intended to be entertainment, but it is the act of paying reverence to God. To worship as one desires, without regard for the Lord's will, is to be guilty of "will wor-

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ship" (**Colossians 2:20-23**). Instead of attempting to entertain people in our worship, we need to develop our appetites for pure, New Testament worship!

What ways do men worship God acceptably? When the church came together for worship, "Paul preached unto them" (**Acts 20:7**). Preaching and teaching God's truth is involved in worshipping God acceptably (**Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 4:2**). The lessons and sermons are designed to teach God's word so as to encourage obedience by those who listen.

What ways do men worship God acceptably? Paul said, "In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (**Philippians 4:6**). We pray, not only to praise and thank God, but also to ask for our needs and the needs of others (**1 Timothy 2:1-4**). The early church continued stedfastly "in prayers" (**Acts 2:42**). We are to pray to God, in the name of Jesus (**Luke 11:1-4; John 14:13**).

What ways do men worship God acceptably? Again Paul said, "speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" (**Ephesians 5:19**). The entire assembly joins in singing gospel songs. There is no choir or special groups, but simple congregational singing.

"Doing God Service"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Jesus warned the eleven: "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me" (**Jn. 16:1-3**). This is an eye-opening statement to me. Jesus told His apostles that there were some people who were quite zealous and adamant about their beliefs, yet they were wrong! Jesus warned of folks killing the apostles, and in so doing, thinking they were serving God! How wrong can people get?

Execution for preaching Christ was not an act limited to the apostles, though. In his younger days, Saul of Tarsus consented to the death of Stephen, a child of God (**Acts 8:1**). In later years, he admitted that he thought within himself, "That I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, hav-

What ways do men worship God acceptably? The Lord's Supper is to be observed every first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**). The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ, (**1 Corinthians 11:23-29**), prior to His death on the cross and was observed by the Lord's church. The supper consists of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine as memorials of the body and blood of Jesus (**1 Corinthians 11:20-36**).

What ways do men worship God acceptably? By giving to the cause of Christ! "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I gave order to the churches of Galatia, so also do ye. Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come" (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**). The work of the church is wholly supported by Christians freely giving on every Sunday. These are the five items which are to be done in worshipping God. These are acceptable to Him when we do them in "spirit and truth" (**John 4:23-24**).

Brethren, all worship problems share at least two traits in common: one, rejection of the principle of God's authority, and two, a desire to feel one's religion through man-made attractions. May God help us to be strong and committed to His ways and have a "Thus saith the Lord" for all we say and do; "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour" (**1 Timothy 2:3**). "Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 2:5**). ♦

ing received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities" (**Acts 26:9-11**). How could someone brought up at the feet of Gamaliel and "taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers"; a man "zealous toward God" (**Acts 22:3**), end up making such a wrong decision? I think a key point in Paul's case was his admission: "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (**Acts 26:9**). Somewhere in his life, he went off-track, and began selfishly following the whims and wishes of men rather than selflessly following the pure will of God!

How do I know this is what happened? It is because if he had followed the pure will of God, he would have ac-

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cepted Christ rather than rejected Him! Remember Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad" (**Jn. 8:56**)! Remember, Moses wrote about Christ (**Jn. 5:46**)! Jesus on another occasion told the people, "Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?" (**Jn. 7:19**)! Therefore, if he (or any of the Jews who had rejected Christ and the Christians in the first century) was following the pure will of God, he would have listened to the Scripture, i.e., the words of Abraham and Moses, and would have accepted Christ. Those who accepted the truth from the inspired words of Abraham, Moses, and other prophets followed Christ! Yet, because folks like Saul of Tarsus and others were following the whims and wishes of men, they were taught to kill Christ and Christians, and in so doing, they would "do God service." How tragic!

What can I learn from this? I can learn that just because I think something is "good" or "holy" or "righteous" does not make it so. The inspired word of God equips us for "every good work" (**II Tim. 3:16-17**). Therefore, if what I am doing does not have its basis and authority from the Scriptures, it is not a good work! Maybe it is time we examined our lives (**II Cor. 13:5**) and made sure what we are

THE SCRIPTURES ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT

By David J. Riggs

Paul told Timothy, "From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (**2 Tim. 3:15**). Consequently, according to an inspired apostle, one can obtain eternal salvation solely by following the Scriptures. In **2 Tim. 3:16-17**, Paul declared that the Scriptures contain everything necessary for doctrine, reproof, etc., to make the man of God perfect or complete. He further added, "...thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**Verse 17**). Thus, there is not a single good work the Christian can do which is not designated in the Scriptures.

The apostle John clearly shows that the things which he wrote were given to produce the faith which brings life in the name of Jesus (**John 20:30-31**). We freely admit that the Scriptures do not contain everything Jesus did. John said, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (**John 21:25**). Although we do not have everything Jesus did, we do have every necessary thing. We have enough to give us life in His name.

doing is what has been authorized by God in His revealed Scriptures. If we find we are following the will of man instead of God, then we need to repent, or be guilty of the same thing those Jews were guilty of in the first century. Specifically, we can be guilty of doing something sinful, and saying it is being done "in God's service."

Some 700 years before Christ came to the earth, God said there were folks guilty of calling "evil good and good evil... (putting) darkness for light, and light for darkness; ... (putting) bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (**Isa. 5:20**). He went on to say, "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (**Isa. 5:21**). Today, it is the same. Woe to people who exchange their "think-so's" for God's word and then claim they are following the Lord! If we are guilty of this, beware, for we fool ourselves into thinking we are "doing God service" when in actuality, we are harming the Lord's cause. We end up working for Satan by default, and destroying the very thing we claim to be building. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (**I Thess. 5:21**). Follow God's will only, and forsake man's will. Let us not be guilty of sinning while claiming we are "doing God service"!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Luke said he wrote his book to Theophilus in order that he might know the certainty of the things which he had heard (**Luke 1:3-4**). In other words, Theophilus would no longer need to rely on what he had been taught by word of mouth, but could now prove them by the inspired writings. In **Acts 1:1** Luke said, "The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach..." What did Luke mean when he said he wrote of all that Jesus did and taught? We know he did not mean every detail of the life of Christ, because John said if that were done, the world itself would not contain the books. He meant, therefore, that he had written all necessary things that Jesus did and taught. The Scriptures provide:

All necessary things which Jesus did - **Acts 1:1-2**
 Certainty of His action and teaching - **Luke 1:3-4**
 Life in the name of Jesus - **John 20:30-31**
 Instructions to salvation - **2 Tim. 3:15**
 Commands of the Lord - **1 Cor. 14:37**
 The proper conduct - **1 Tim. 3:14-15**
 Every good work - **2 Tim. 3:16-17**

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