



March 26th, 2006

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HOW CAN WE MAKE WORSHIP MORE MEANINGFUL?

Worship is a topic of frequent discussion among many in the church. Questions are raised as to how to make worship more meaningful. Complaints are registered by some that they get nothing out of the worship. There are cries for changes in the worship. Part of the problem is a misconception of what worship is and its purpose. Jesus said, "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) True worship directed to God will increase our devotion to him and under gird the doctrinal and ethnical life of the church. If these are the benefits, it must be asked why do even professing Christians frequently absent themselves from the worship? What has happened to our view of worship?

It may hurt, but it has to be admitted that we have allowed our services to become ritualistic. There is often a mechanical, cold, formal even boring atmosphere. Week after week, we open worship the same way, have the Lord's Supper at the same place, and hear the same prayers at the table. We may not have a written ritual to follow but we might as well have. By falling into such ruts, we allow worship to degenerate into mere routine.

No congregation would tolerate a preacher delivering the same sermon each week. But again and again God has to listen to words like these: "Bless the widows and the orphans and all for whom it is our duty to pray" or "Bless this bread (or cup) which to Christians represents the body (blood) of Jesus Christ as He hung on the cross. May those partaking of it do so in a manner well pleasing in thy sight."

If worship is to have an impact, we need to spend some real time in preparation. Songs and sermons need to be unified. Those participating should realize they are called to a holy task. A slovenly appearance at the table does not prompt a concept of reverence. When we see ourselves as creatures before the Creator and sinners unworthy of his grace will we be able to continue our half-hearted songs, prayers and gifts? Note passing, giggling, flirting and sleeping will keep on robbing our worship of meaning until we examine ourselves and reform our ways.

Judging from the way some behave worship is viewed as a time to correspond on the registration cards. Others imagine they are judges at a style show. Add to this the permission given by some parents to their children for a dozen trips to the fountain or bathroom, and we get an inkling why worship has lost its punch. Few can worship in the middle of such a "circus".

There are the latecomers; always late for their appointment with God. Then as the last song is announced a great migration is launched at the rear of the building. By the time the final "Amen" is said, it seems like someone has yelled "fire". With distractions like this, no wonder worship is viewed by some as drudgery.

In our zeal that there be no additions to the worship and no changes in God's instruction for worship let's not forget to advocate true worship. If worship is all we claim it is then surely we would want a taste of the real thing. We need to promote reverence and devotion. Let us not stop with the forms of worship let's restore the spirit of it as well.

The price tag for such worship is eternal vigilance. We need to examine our attitudes and carefully guard against unhealthy habits. Remember we are to worship God both in spirit and in truth. A failure in either realm profanes God's worship.

Leon Cole

WELCOME VISITORS:

We are so glad you decided to be here today! It is always such a blessing to be able to meet you and be encouraged by your presence. Thank you for coming our way.

FOR THE CHILDREN:

Children's Worship Bulletins are available at the back for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

Attended Nursery for infants through age two. Parents may leave their children in the nursery before the worship service begins.

A Training Room for parents to use anytime during the worship service is also provided across the hall from the attended nursery.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

Hearing aid devices are available and may be received from the attendant in the sound room at the rear of the auditorium.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR (Luke 11: 28)

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

BELIEVE (Mark 16: 16)

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

REPENT (Acts 2: 38)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

CONFESS (Matthew 10: 32)

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

BE BAPTIZED (Acts 22: 16)

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Start planning for our Vacation Bible School (ages 1 to 5th grade), which will be June 11th - 13th (Sunday PM - Tuesday). Sunday night will be at 6:00 pm and Monday and Tuesday will be at 7:00 pm. More details to come later.

"Local Gymnasts Keep Rolling"

Congratulations to Shannon Gibbs, who is a member of the Highlands County gymnastics team. The team made local YMCA history on Feb. 18th at its second AAU qualifier meet in Brandon. Shannon (Level 5), highest level is 7, placed 1st in the uneven bars, third on floor and second in the all-around. The team had a meet this weekend in Port Charlotte and was the gymnasts' final chance to qualify for the state meet in April. We are proud of you Shannon and cannot wait to hear how this meet went.



Members/Visitors Card

Please fill out the appropriate side on Sunday morning. On one side, it has the member attendance information and on the reverse side, it has the visitor's information. This allows us to have a record of your attendance.



THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



<http://thebackpew.com>

A Psalm 23 Weather Alert!! Life may feel like the eye of the storm.. But know Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. Life is more than ok, it is blessed.

The Devil's Beatitudes

If the Devil were to write his Beatitudes, they would probably look like this:

- ❖ Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour or two once a week with their fellow Christians in Church - they are my best workers.
- ❖ Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked - I can use them.
- ❖ Blessed are the touchy, with a bit of luck they may stop going to church - they are my missionaries.
- ❖ Blessed are those who are very religious but get on everyone's nerves - they are mine forever.
- ❖ Blessed are the troublemakers - they shall be called my children.
- ❖ Blessed are those who have no time to pray - they are easy prey for me.
- ❖ Blessed are the gossipers - for they are my secret agents.
- ❖ Blessed are those critical of church leadership - for they shall inherit a place with me in my fate.
- ❖ Blessed are the complainers - I'm all ears for them.
- ❖ Blessed are you when you read this and think it is about other people and not yourself - I've got you.

Pantry

We are in need of the following items for the pantry.



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Tomato Soup | Carrots |
| Vienna Sausages | Pork n Beans |
| Chicken Noodle Soup | Canned Potatoes |
| Mixed Vegetables | Canned Meats |
| Toilet tissue | Shampoo |
| Conditioner | Femine Products |
| Peanut Butter | Peas |
| Flour | Sugar |
| Whole Canned Tomatoes | Crackers |

Dedicated Funds Envelopes



On the backs of the pews, you will find envelopes marked Dedicated Funds. When donating to the building fund, special mission efforts, special medical missions, or other specially dedicated funds, please check the appropriate box on the envelope.

Our Record: March 19th, 2006

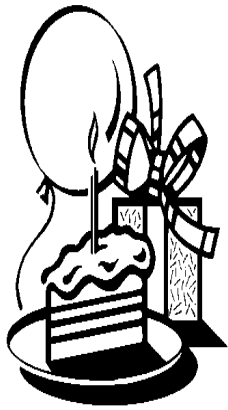
Bible Study	151
Sunday AM Worship	209
Sunday PM Worship	113
Contribution	\$3003
Wednesday Bible Study	127
Building Fund	\$50
Ukraine Building Fund	\$85
F.H. Gates	\$0
Special Mission Efforts	\$0

Visitors Last Week

Fred & Faye Stroop	Melanie Busby
Shan & Trudy Wood	PJ, Nikki, Dakota Makenzie
Ashley Williams	Robin Williams
Denise (Mason)	Matt Thomas & Family

Please remember to invite others to our services. There are cards available in the foyer to help you invite others.

Upcoming Birthdays



Tracey Stalter	3/26
Paul Talbert	3/26
Frank Parker	3/27
Rachel Capps	3/30
Shannon Gibbs	3/30
Tori Gurganus	3/30
Don Yost	3/31
Richard Haddad	3/31
Evelyn Smith	4/3
J. Allen Overfield	4/4
Verna Miller	4/4
Walter "Dickie" Wheeler	4/5

Anniversary



Marvin & Patty Massey	4/3/73
Lorri Ann Gibbs & Edward Barnett	4/4/04

Communion Sign up

There is no one signed up to prepare the communion for services from the months of May - December. If you are interested, please sign up today. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

WITH SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Buel Piety. Buel passed away the first part of the past week and his funeral was on Thursday. Please keep Helen and family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- ❖ **Marjorie Vandivor** is awaiting biopsy results.
- ❖ **Dwain Chambers** is recovering from another back surgery. They removed a lot of scar tissue from the nerve that was caused from the original injury and not past surgeries.
- ❖ **Sandra Powell** will have an Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy test on April 4th. This will help determine why she has difficulty with swallowing.
- ❖ **Frank Henry** continued health concerns.
- ❖ **Al Overfield** continued improvement.
- ❖ Several members have been under the weather with allergies and illness.
- ❖ **Kristal Burgess** is doing better after a minor setback from her foot surgery.
- ❖ **Edison Green and George Lazzell** both have had skin cancer removed recently.

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- ❖ **Dorothy Maxwell**, mother of Brenda Shinholser, is in the hospital in Jacksonville.
- ❖ **Olive Anderson**, aunt of Wayne Anderson, is recovering from heart bypass.
- ❖ **Lorraine Nix**, Billy Nix's mother, is in the hospital in Murray, Kentucky.
- ❖ Son of Glen and Joanne Wooters is recovering from cancer surgery.
- ❖ **Gary Taylor**, son of Kathryn Taylor and brother of Betty Abrams, is at home recovering from surgery.
- ❖ **Mae Dorst**, 96 year-old-mother of Patty Massey, continued health concerns.
- ❖ **Jim Casey**, friend of the Barber's, continued is at home now recovering from a heart transplant.
- ❖ **Debbie Vigar**, Marjorie Vandivor's sister is currently taking chemotherapy.
- ❖ **Dorothy McCracken**, health concerns with cancer in both lungs.
- ❖ **Shirley Waldrop** undergoing treatment for cancer in spinal cord.

MISSION EFFORTS

- ❖ **Anil Tejpaal and family and Javeed Ally** in Guyana. (Concern from criminal activity preceding this year's elections.)
- ❖ **Vovo Shoot and family and Dema Galook and family** in Chernovtsy.
- ❖ **F.H. & Becky Gates** in Brazil.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE		REMINDER:
THIS SUNDAY	NEXT SUNDAY	<p>If for some reason you find that you cannot serve as scheduled in the monthly assignment schedule, please call Chris Fowler as soon as possible so that a substitute can be selected.</p> <p>Those serving are asked to be here at least 10 minutes before the service starts.</p> <p>Those who participate Sunday morning are asked to wear appropriate dress attire, preferably, though not required, a dress shirt and tie. At other services casual sport shirt and slacks are acceptable; no T-shirts or shorts should be worn while serving the congregation.</p> <p>Thank you for your cooperation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Prepare Communion: Joanne Cope</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters: Ron Horton Clyde Bush Bill Sweeton Kitty Bush</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Cards: Forest Ritenour & Austin Ritenour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Communion Cups: Nicholas Stalter & Victor Oregon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sound Room: Paul Talbert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secure Building This Week: Paul Talbert</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prepare Communion:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters: Ron Horton Don Gunter Bill Sweeton Ann Gunter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Cards: Nicholas Stalter & Victor Oregon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Communion Cups: Forrest Ritenour & Austin Ritenour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sound Room: Bill Benton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secure Building Next Week: Bill Benton</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Announcements: Olin Shinholser</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Song Leader: Chris Fowler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening Prayer: Bill Cole</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lord's Supper:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preside: Clem Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Serve:</p> <p>1. Nicholas Stalter 5. Edison Green 2. Ernie Zink 6. Don Gunter 3. Bill Benton 7. Harry Johnson 4. Herb Ellis 8. Dave Marcum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Prayer: Rick Cochran</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Announcements: Don Ware</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Song Leader: Dan Luidhardt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening Prayer: Dale Spung</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lord's Supper:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preside: Robert Underwood</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Serve:</p> <p>1. Chris Fowler 5. Paul Talbert 2. Carl Martin 6. Troy Talbert 3. John Roberts 7. BJ Thomas 4. Olin Shinholser 8. Mike Tubbs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Prayer: Wayne Anderson</p>	SHEPHERDS
Sunday Evening	Sunday Evening	<p>Harry Johnson 655-3386 (Evangelism/Membership Directory/Membership Fellowship)</p> <p>Dave Marcum..... 385-8899 (Treasurer/ Administration)</p> <p>Olin Shinholser 382-1060 (Worship Services/ Education)</p> <p>Paul Talbert 385-3756 (Building & Grounds/ Benevolence/ Membership Services/ Directory)</p>
<p>Song Leader: Opening Prayer: Edison Green Wayne Anderson</p> <p>Lord's Supper: Closing Prayer: Clem Smith Billy Nix</p>	<p>Song Leader: Opening Prayer: Timothy Class Timothy Class</p> <p>Lord's Supper: Closing Prayer: Robert Underwood Timothy Class</p>	DEACONS
Wednesday Evening	Wednesday Evening	<p>Bill Benton 453-6002 (Treasurer/Visitation)</p> <p>Chris Fowler..... 386-4661 (Youth Director/ Services Director/ Substitute Teacher Assignments)</p> <p>Roger Gurganus..... 453-3939 (Building & Grounds Maintenance (Outside)/ Transportation/ Communion)</p> <p>Tracey Stalter..... 471-9736 (Building Maintenance (Inside)/ Membership Directory/ Pews)</p> <p>BJ Thomas..... 385-7270 (Building Maintenance (Outside)/ Benevolence)</p> <p>Don Ware 382-0194 (Special Mission Efforts/ Timothy Class)</p>
<p>Song Leader: Invitation: Robert Capps Flavil Miller</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Prayer: Don Gunter</p>	<p>Song Leader: Invitation: Dave Marcum Clem Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Prayer: Tracey Stalter</p>	
FREE BIBLE STUDY BY MAIL	MEET WITH US	
<p>If you would like to receive a series of Bible Study Lessons, send this request to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sebring Parkway Church of Christ 3800 Sebring Parkway Sebring, FL 33870</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Age Range:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 10 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 17 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 50 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 51 - ?? yrs</p>	<p>Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM Sunday AM Worship..... 10:00 AM Sunday PM Service 6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Website: http://www.sebringcoc.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email: sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com</p>	