

Let's Visit

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I Didn't Get Anything Out Of It

(The following article appeared in the Gospel Advocate 35 years ago. However, in our consumer oriented society, it is as timely today as when it was first written)

Often, when talking with people about why they are not attending worship services regularly, they reply, "I didn't get anything out of it." This statement betrays a sickness and a serious misunderstanding of Christian worship. Somehow, and much of the blame must be laid on the leadership of the church, we have developed the concept that the worshiper is to receive, rather than give. In some instances, the feeling is that the worshiper is to be lifted, almost by some magical power by the worship leaders from the doldrums of his personal problems to spiritual heights. The non-attending complainer feels justified that if this does not happen, he has no obligation to attend the worship services.

Not long ago at a preachers' workshop, one was asked to speak to the preacher who represented the viewpoint of the pew. In essence, he expressed the concept that it was the duty of the preacher or teacher to analyze the various and sundry feelings of each member of the audience and the problems besetting each one and to inspire and lift each person from the despair of depression to the heights of spiritual exaltation.

While I am not denying that every worship leaders should do everything in his power to give the audience something that will inspire, encourage, lift up and edify, I am affirming that we have reversed the basic concept of why we assemble to worship. We do not assemble to get from men and worship leaders, but we assemble to give to God. We do not assemble primarily to receive, but we assemble to render unto God. However, an essential by-product

if giving true worship unto God is to get edification and inspiration when we worship as we ought.

When we understand the nature and purpose of our worship and enter into it with hearts full of gratitude and adoration, we will not only give worship to God, but we will also give inspiration to our fellow worshipper and get great encouragement ourselves. The following suggestions may be helpful.

Give thanks unto God in worship out of a heart overflowing with gratitude. We should not come passively to worship, waiting for someone to lift us up mystically, but we should come actively to worship, seeking to give thanks to God.

Offer prayers of praise, of thanksgiving, of confession, of supplication and of intercession with sincere devotion and deep recognition of our need for God and reliance upon Him.

We should sing with the spirit and with the understanding. Again, we cannot approach singing and praying passively, waiting for the leaders to stimulate us, but we must approach these with a heartfelt desire to express the thoughts, praises and yearnings of our hearts to God.

We should give attention to the reading of God's Word and to the lesson being developed from God's word. Again, it is impossible to get anything from

(Continued on page 2)

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

"The Misunderstood Church – An Introduction"

There are many "misunderstandings" about Churches of Christ. In this sermon series starting today, we will attempt to address the most common misunderstandings.

FOR THE PANTRY....

Pork n' Beans

"I Didn't Get Anything..." - continued from page 1

the lesson until we give something to it – that is our attention.

The purpose of our worship and our assembly is primarily to give glory to God and encouragement to others, not to get something for ourselves. When we give, render, offer, sing, praise, listen and are as attentive as we ought, God will be pleased, other worshippers will share in the edification and we will find ourselves getting a great blessing out of worship and the assembly of the church.

-F. Furman Kearly
Gospel Advocate
May 1, 1986

Selfishness. . .

The worst enemy that "a certain rich man" had was his habit of always thinking of himself. He was a farmer, and his soil was rich. His crops were so large that he asked himself, "What shall I do because I have not where to bestow my fruits?" Read that story again in the twelfth chapter of Luke, and notice how the rich man kept repeating the first personal pronoun. His thought was limited to himself; neither God nor humanity entered into his plans.

How widespread this habit of thinking of self it, may be better understood in the light of what a man

said to a friend. "Did you ever notice how many people you pass on the pavement let you take the curb while they keep to the center of the walk?" he asked. "Well, I have noticed that in about ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, people are more willing that you should give way to them than they are willing to give way to you."

We need to get in into the habit of thinking of the welfare of others. By so doing we shall be striking a telling blow at the enemy of selfishness.

-Just A Moment

On The Lighter Side....

Speaking of "Misunderstandings"



MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES TO ANYONE WHO GOT INJURED LAST WEEK WHEN WE SCHEDULED THE BAKE SALE AND WEIGHT WATCHERS FOR THE SAME EVENING

* * * * *

A Few Holds

Hold on to your hand when you are about to do an unkind act.

Hold on to your tongue when you are just ready to speak harshly.

Hold on to your heart when evil persons invite you to join their rank.

Hold on to your foot when you are on the point of forsaking the path of right.

Hold on to your temper when you are excited or angry, or others are angry with you.

-selected

Miscellaneous

Those To Remember In Prayer



Melvin Williams is scheduled for a heart valve replacement on September 21st.

Mark Your Calendar!



Sunday
December 5th
Our Next Covered
Dish Luncheon

Make Your Plans
To Be Here!

* * * * *

Let Your Light Shine!

The story is told that once a traveler came to a French village. Night was approaching and the people were hurrying through the streets. The traveler noticed that each person was carrying a bronze lamp. He inquired about the custom and received the following reply:

"The people are going to the village for worship. When the building was built, it was decided that each member would bring his own light to the evening service. There is no other way to light the building, and everyone goes to make the building brighter. Each one realizes that if they are not there the building will be darker."

The traveler went to that village meeting house, and there he found that on every seat was a place to hang the lighted lamp. As more and more of the members came, the building became brighter and brighter.

Do you realize that things are darker when you stay home? Your "light" is needed for every period of Bible Study and Worship. Suppose we lighted our building by "your light". Could we even find our seat? Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world".

Let your light shine!

tp

In another day and time, when the doctor proclaimed you "sound as a dollar" it was quite re-assuring. In our day and time now, it could be cause for alarm!

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted and Joyce Holt, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Melvin Williams

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Leyton Bell (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) Gil Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery Cody Butler (Debra Pate's grandson) Krisi, Shane and Nicholas Clark (Norma Perkins' cousin and her family) Gracie Elam (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) John Fincher (Dale Fincher's uncle) Kamryn and Korbyn Fontenot (Debra Pate's grandsons) Gayle Foster (Cancer) Emily Heflin (Roxie Bostick's niece) Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Melanie Hutzler (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) Julia Keffer (Bobbi Holder's mother) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'Brien,) cancer Liam Martinez (11 months old) Julia & Reno Mendza (cousins of Jerry Pate) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Abbey Perkins (Tim and Norma Perkins' daughter-in-law) Stephanie Richard (friend of Norma Perkins) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Katilyn Tate (Roxie Bostick's daughter-in-law) Jared and Natalie Tate (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother) Pat Wallace (Norma Perkins aunt)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

* * * * *

Your Absence. . .

Made some think you are a pretender and not sincere.

Made some question the reality of your religion; made some services weaker.

Made some think you regard the work of the Lord as a matter of little concern.

Made others go away disappointed at the little interest shown.

-copied



Across The Preacher's Desk

In Matthew chapter 27, Pilate gave the people the choice of releasing a hardened criminal named Barabbas or Jesus. Whipped into a frenzy by their leaders, the people chose Barabbas. Then Pilate asked the question, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" The people shouted, "Let him be crucified"

That question is a universal question. It is a question asked by all races and all classes of people. The truth is, once a man or woman has heard about Jesus and learned the truth about Jesus, they can never be the same.

The magnitude of the question is seen when we consider Jesus is God's spokesman to man. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. Jesus is mankind's only savior and our perfect example.

In times past, shepherds were attracted to Jesus and wise men came to worship him. Herod was afraid of him and tried to kill him. Some were jealous of him and tried to ensnare him in his speech. His own people refused to receive him and one of his twelve closest companions for 3 years, a man named Judas betrayed him. Peter denied him, Pilate tried to be neutral about him, and before his conversion Paul persecuted his followers.

However, the question is, what will YOU do with Jesus? Will you accept him? Will you obey him? Will you live his kind of life?

it's something to think about....tlbp

**God's Plan of
Evangelism....**

Each one bring one!