

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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WHAT WORSHIP IS ALL ABOUT

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When we worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, whom are we to worship? I couldn't help but notice as I was reading an article in the Houston Chronicle that a church centers its worship service around a boom box playing the music of John Coltrane in his album "A Love Supreme."

Today, we are inspired by different authors when we sing spiritual songs in worship. For example, "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" by Lowell Mason. These are spiritual songs that reflect and honor the word of God, not the author. Friend, no where in the Chronicle article do we read that the music reflects or honors God. It seems they are honoring John Coltrane.

When we manifest this type of mentality, are we not losing focus of what our worship service is all about? Our coming together on Sundays and Wednesdays is to worship the Lord, not man. Jesus says, "It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10). Jesus sets the standard in whom our worship is to be directed toward. Ladies

and gentlemen, when the worship service is directed toward the music of honoring a man, whom is being worshipped?

First, worship is all about pleasing God. Jesus says, "*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*" (John 4:23-24). True worshippers are those who truly and sincerely worship God. Worship of the Father through Jesus Christ is to be in spirit and in truth. Is playing music in worship service which honors men acceptable and pleasing to God?

Second, Christians are to give reverence to God when we assemble together. The Psalmist says, "*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.*" (Psalm 89:7). God is to be approached with awe. His power is to be feared; His justice is to be feared; and His holiness is to be feared. When we come to worship God it is to be with godly fear, recognizing that we are in His presence. Are we showing

godly fear in the assembly when the worship service is honoring someone else?

Thirdly, in the New Testament God commands that we sing songs of praises in worship, not playing music on a saxophone. In Ephesians 5:19 Paul says, "*Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing and make melody to our hearts to the Lord.*" Speaking to one another is the purpose for edifying and building up everyone and to promote purity in the heart by songs of praise. Also, in Colossians 3:16, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" Singing these songs should inspire us and should fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord. We are to put our whole heart into worshipping God in singing praises to Him.

Let's remember that our worship is to be pleasing to God. Our songs in worship are to honor God, not man.