

Saturday, May 2, 2015 - Are you Ready for Worship?

It has often been said that one will get out of a thing only what he puts into it. This is especially true of worship. Preparation is needed in any worthwhile endeavor. There are those who complain, "One reason that our worship is not more uplifting and inspiring is that, all too often, no preparation is made in advance." Can I offer the suggestion that those who complain about worship look in the mirror to see where the lack of preparation occurred?

God's relationship with Israel demanded that they prepare themselves to meet Him. The phrase "be ready" is found twice in this passage (Ex. 19:11, 15). The instructions which God gave them required "ritual sanctification." This was done to impress on the people the holiness of God and the solemnity of the coming event. Thus these were things they needed to do before they were to meet God. One can be fairly certain how serious they took this command to "be ready."

Worship is so important because it is in the presence of God. Of course, God is omnipresent, but worship is being in His presence in a special sense. The psalmist wrote, "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing! . . . Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise! . . ." (Psa. 100:2,4). John wrote, ". . . for all nations shall come and worship before thee" (Rev. 15:4). As we approach God in worship, we too must "be ready." Jesus has shown us that we must prepare ourselves for worship.

Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). The phrase "worship him in spirit" can refer to having one's mind on proper things and being in the proper understanding for worship. The ultimate reason for this serious preparation is because of the nature of the God whom we worship. We must recognize that we are on "holy ground" when we come to worship God.

That preparation to worship Jehovah God does NOT start on Saturday night or Sunday morning. It starts by living a life holy and acceptable to Him regardless of where we are, who we are with or what day of the week it is.

Are you going to worship God tomorrow? Are you ready? Where are you this evening? Would it be someplace that Jesus would find worthy of one of His followers?

If not, can I suggest you aren't ready for worship.