

Revival Of Worship

Worship Beyond The Music

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of Gods mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

We humans love to worship something. While the Apostle Paul was visiting Athens, he noticed that there were hundreds of idols scattered throughout the city. Paul began to talk with the locals on the street about it. Eventually he was invited to speak at a gathering and he said, “Men of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an alter with this inscription: **TO AN UNKNOWN GOD**. Now what you worship as unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”

Even These people were trying to cover all of the bases! Today I want to show you a new way of looking at worship. A new way of worshipping that will take you beyond the music. Are you ready this morning?

Worship isn't music alone; it's your faith in action. Do you know how faith expresses itself? It expresses itself through obedience.

James 2:17 says, “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead.” Vs. 21-22 “Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered up his son Isaac on the alter? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.”

God demands our actions as well as our believing and thinking.

Let's take a look at Romans 12 again. Here is the phrase that really sets the table for us today. ***“Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.”***

This kind of sacrifice can't be made without thought and heart. And it sure can't be done in a ritualistic way because sacrifice demands contemplation! If it's done out of ease and doesn't cost you anything then you've made a contribution and not a sacrifice! Let me explain the difference: A chicken and a pig are walking down the road when they both see a church sign that reads "Benefit breakfast served today to help raise funds for our new church building. Bacon and eggs served." The chicken says to the pig, "See we can help with that." To which the pig responds, "That's easy for you to say, you get to make a contribution, but I'm the one who has to make the sacrifice."

Being a living sacrifice is a deliberate act! If you want to worship beyond the music then choosing to be "A living sacrifice" must be your "Spiritual act of worship."

Let's just be real this morning, asking most Americans to sacrifice is like asking a cat to take a bath. We are devoted to pleasure, comfort and absence of pain.

Despite how we may feel about it, sacrifice is a very important part of our Christian development.

It's hard to teach the absolute necessity of sacrifice when you have televangelists saying if you send in this amount of money you will receive this or that, or the "name it claim it craze" The former relies on manipulation while the later leaves out sacrifice!

This is the attitude of some when it comes to sacrifice.

The Butterball turkey company set up a hotline to answer questions about preparing holiday turkeys. One lady called in and asked if it was safe to eat a turkey that had been frozen for 23 years. The operator told her it might be safe if the freezer was kept at -0 degrees the entire time. The operator warned the lady that, even if it were safe to eat, the flavor had probably deteriorated, and she wouldn't recommend that she eat it. The caller replied, "That's what my husband and I thought. We'll just give it to the church."

A sacrifice isn't a sacrifice unless it costs you something.

Matthew 10:38-39 Jesus said, "Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and however loses his life for my sake will find it."

The cross represents sacrifice. If we are ever going to have any hope of learning to worship beyond the music, then we need to do as the old human "I Surrender All" says. Listen to these words.

All to Jesus I surrender. All to Him I freely give. I will ever love and trust him. In His presence daily live. I surrender all. I surrender all. All to thee my blessed Savior. I surrender all. All to Jesus I surrender. Humbly at His feet I bow. Worldly pleasures all forsaken. Take me Jesus take me now. I surrender all. I surrender all. All to Thee my blessed Savior. I surrender all.

Your worship to the Lord will never end when you surrender all!!

Sacrifice doesn't have to be this awful thing. We need to see it as pleasure.

There were 2 wealthy business men that were about to take a trip around the world. Before they left their pastor Asked them to take a picture of anything they thought was unusual. While in Korea, as they were traveling, they saw in a field a young boy pulling a crude plow while an older man held the handles. One of the guys took a picture. He asked the guide, "That is an unusual sight, I guess they are very poor?" "Yes" the guide said. "They are very poor, that is the family of Chi Noui. When their church was being built, they were excited to give something to help with the building, but they had no money so they sold their only Ox and gave the money to the church. This spring they are taking turns pulling the plow themselves." The businessman said, "That must have been a real sacrifice." The guide said, "They didn't see it that way. They considered themselves fortunate that they had an Ox to sell."

Since when was pleasure and ease always the mark of the blessing of God. This father and son had learned to truly worship beyond the music.

If you and I ever have any hope of reviving true worship in our lives then we must learn the lost art of being "A living sacrifice."

Don't get me wrong, I'm not asking you to go home and sell all that you have and live on the street and avoid all pleasure and ease. My hope is that this message will revive a sense of true worship that goes beyond the music on Sunday that will continue unto your every day!! Learn to truly bring God a sacrifice of praise!