

WERE YOU REALLY AT WORSHIP?

It would seem that there are many that either, have never heard or read Hebrews 10:25, do not believe Hebrews 10:25 or don't care if they violate Hebrews 10:25. Of course Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, yet many do exactly that; they forsake the assembling of ourselves together. The fallacy of this is expressed time after time and still some will not heed the warning. However, let us consider something else about our attendance.

It is possible that though we are sitting on the pew during the worship service, we have in fact left a portion (the most important part) of ourselves elsewhere. Jesus said that "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Now, to worship God in truth means to worship God according to truth. God's word is truth (John 17:17), thus to worship God in truth is to worship Him according to His prescribed instructions. But, what about the part that says that we must worship Him in spirit? Our spirit is our inner being, thus to worship God in spirit is to worship God sincerely from our hearts. This is the part that we may inadvertently allow to stray away and not be present for the worship service.

There are often distractions within the building itself that entice our spirit from true worship. Be it people moving around, playing with the child on the pew in front of them, note passing or carrying on a whispered conversation, we must stay on guard that we let not our spirit leave the worship service.

Exciting events may be in store for the afternoon. Be it a scrumptious dinner, time with family and friends, a quiet afternoon in the park or any of a host of other enticements; let none of these things draw away your spirit from the worship of the Lord.

The point is: When we bow in prayer, ALL, not just some, are to be in prayer with God at that time. When we sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, ALL are to be singing these songs and singing them from our hearts. When we partake of the Lord's supper, ALL are to be doing so in remembrance of the Lord's death on the cross for the sins of man. So in the listening of God's word and in the giving of our means, ALL are to be worshipping God with both our body and our spirit. So, we go back to the question that makes up our title. Were you really at worship, or did just part of you attend?

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WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

The sentiment expressed in our title is that of many today in many realms of life. It has been verbalized in the realm of politics, race and as we will consider here, religion.

When it comes to the realm of religion, in many cases various religious groups have made somewhat a pact to "just get along". In other words they have just agreed to be tolerant of one another, to agree to disagree and work together whenever and however possible. They have the "I'm OK, you're OK" mindset. However, this falls short of what God calls for in His holy word. When Jesus prayed for His apostles, He included, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). What Jesus prayed for was not an agreement to be tolerant of one another's doctrines and differences, but that all would have the same doctrines and practices, "as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee" (verse 21). The apostle Paul early in his second letter to the Corinthians wrote, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). Paul said that this command to be one in mind and judgment came by way of the authority of Jesus Christ. The prophet Amos once asked the rhetorical question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Now let us go forward with an answer to the question that makes up our title. First, we can all "just get along". All we have to do is compromise, ignore and intentionally disobey the word of God and we can all get along. In fact we will all get along all the way to Hell. Secondly, we can't all get along! If one desires to go to heaven, that person will be unable to "get along" (have unity and fellowship) with those who have determined to cast aside the word of God. This being because in order to go to heaven, one must instead cast aside the teachings, practices and traditions of the world and have received with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). When the Lord returns, He will take vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of Christ (II Thess. 1:8). *Robert*