

From Where I Sit . . .

O Come, Let Us Worship And Bow Down

The subject of worship should not be a controversial one, and yet it has always been so. From the beginning of time men have sought out ways of expressing themselves to deity that involved everything from boiling children in the milk of a goat to offering them in fire to appease their "gods" (II Kings 23:10).

The reality is that man is going to worship something! While a humanist might accuse believers in God of being unenlightened and superstitious, the truth is that a good humanist merely worships a different force -- that being man himself as the center of his own universe.

We're not surprised at this concept. Indeed the heathen of our Lord's day were guilty of worshipping the creature more than the Creator (Romans 1:25). This text calls to mind a drawing force that should compel all the creation to worship God, Romans 1: 20, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead. . ."

The hymnist is correct, "There is a God! He is alive! In Him we live and we abide." The heavens cry out of His being and call forth an expression of praise from all His creation. Only foolish man stubbornly refuses to praise Him, yet not all of mankind. The Psalmist had an inner longing for God as Christians do today: Psalms 42:1 "... As the hart (deer) panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

We declare with David in Psa 95:1-7 "O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand..."

The beautiful thing is that the Father is pleased with our humble efforts to approach Him. It has nothing to do with pageantry, or riches, or works of our hands. John 4:23-24, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Someone has said, "The ideal without worship is empty, powerless theology." The converse is also true, "Worship without the ideal' (God) is idolatry." And so, most of the world lies in idolatry of one sort or another.

How grateful we should be that God has shown us appropriate ways of expressing our love and adoration for Him. The Bible clearly maps out ways of honoring God that are spiritual, uplifting, and that are pleasing to the Father. It is very important that man reach up to God in spiritual praise in a manner that is acceptable to the One who alone is worthy to be praised.

I look forward to seeing each of the Broad Street family and sharing in worship services at each service this Lord's Day.

..... Terry Broome

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