

## Worship, Part Three of Three

I wonder if the vision of the God held by so many who come to worship is anything like what the seraphims were telling us in part one and part two of worship (ref. Isaiah 6:1-8). Do we worship with the understanding that God is holy and that the whole earth is full of His glory. I wonder if in our worship we encounter anything like what Isaiah encountered in chapter 6:1-8. Do those who come to our services of worship come face to face with the reality of God? Or do they go away with a vision of some lesser God?

Worship is the people of God gathering together to confess His worthiness. How can we do that if we do not make clear who God is? Our very pattern of worship must testify to the character of God. Roger Scruton, a British philosopher, has suggested that worship is the most important indicator of what persons or groups really believe about God. He says, “God is defined in the act of worship far more precisely than he is defined by any theology. If you want to know what a people really believe about God, don’t spend time reading their theologians, watch them worship. Listen to what they sing. Listen to what they say. Listen to how they pray. Then you will know what they believe about this God whom they worship.”

Hebrews 10:31 reveals, “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. I wonder if there is anything that could even be remotely suggested as a terrifying reality as we present the God we claim to worship in what we do and what we say. Just look at the decline in the hymns of the church.

Scripture tells us that we should speak to one another “in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19). But how are our hymns to be measured? We must measure them by their content, by the God they reveal, and here we see a serious decline in evangelical hymns. We see a surrender of conviction and tolerance to the culture among evangelicals.

A. W. Tozer said, “We have simplified until Christianity amounts to this: God is love; Jesus died for you; believe, accept, be jolly, have fun and tell others. And away we go – that is the Christianity of our day. I would not give a plug nickel for the whole business of it. Once in a while God has a poor bleeding sheep that manages to live on that kind of thing and we wonder how.”

True worship begins with a vision of the heart of the God of the Bible – the true and living God.

Find the Verse: “Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.”

Jerry W. Arnold  
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