WHAT DID YOU BRING TO WORSHIP?

I. Did you bring a reverent attitude?
   A. Reverence is defined as: a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe; veneration.
   B. Why should we have deep respect for God?
      1. All honor and glory is due God (1 Timothy 1:17).
      2. God is the Most Holy One (Isaiah 6:3).
      3. We should be reverent towards God because of His love for us (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
      4. We should reverence Him because of His wrath (Hebrews 12:28-29).
   C. God is worthy of our reverence and one way we show this is in the way we worship Him (John 4:23-24).
   D. We are to worship God in the right manner, in truth, and with the right attitude, in spirit.
   E. Because of Who God is and what He has done for us, we are to be reverent towards Him.
   F. There should be a distinction in our attitude during worship and our attitude during a sporting event.
      1. It is fine to act as you want in a sporting arena.
      2. However, that which is right there is not right in a worship service.
   G. Too many times, there is not much of a distinction made.
      1. There is whispering, note passing, getting up and down all throughout the worship service.
      2. These things are fine at the gym or stadium but not in the worship service.
   H. We need to remember that we are expressing our reverence or our irreverence towards God.
      1. We are here to worship Him.
      2. Anything we do that is irreverent in worship is towards Him and not towards anyone else.
   I. Psalm 100 should be in the forefront of our minds when we come to worship God.

II. Did you bring an active mind?
   A. Worship is not a mindless activity.
   B. Worship is not accepted that is just going through the motions.
   C. God has always hated and despised perfunctory worship (Isaiah 1:10-17; Malachi 1:6-8).
   D. Worship is an activity not a spectator sport.
      1. The one worshiping is to be engaged in the activity, not mindlessly sitting there.
      2. We are to be active and not passive.
   E. What is the purpose of singing?
      1. Is it not in part to teach and admonish one another (Colossians
3:16)?
2. Can we teach or admonish someone, or be taught or admonished if our brains are not involved in worship?

F. We are to give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7), but we can’t be cheerful and mindless.

G. Attention is to be on the death of Jesus while partaking of the Lord’s Supper but it can’t be if our minds are not engaged.
   1. We are to be looking forward to His return (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
   2. We can’t do this if our minds are shut down.

H. Each of us are to be involved in prayer.
   1. It is not simply one getting up to pray while everyone else is brain dead.
   2. James 5:16.

I. As with singing, during a study of God’s word our brains are to be engaged.
   1. The purpose of preaching is to bring a message from God’s word.
   2. God’s word, when ingested, causes spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2).
   3. You can’t ingest God’s word with a closed mind.

J. We each should be actively involved in each avenue of worship.

III. Did you bring a pure life?
A. If we are active and reverent but lead sinful lives then our activity and reverence are useless.

B. After God through Isaiah told the Israelites He was sick of their worship, He told them to be cleansed (Isaiah 1:18).

C. When God rejected Judah’s worship it was because of their impure lives (Micah 6:6-8).

D. It is the height of hypocrisy to come before the presence of God sinful and act as if you love Him by worshiping Him.
   1. It would be hypocritical of me to preach His word leading a sinful life.
   2. This type hypocrisy will always be wrong.

E. If we have a problem with a brother, we are told to settle that problem before we try and worship (Matthew 5:23-24).

F. God is infinitely holy and wants us to be holy as well (1 Peter 1:15-16).

G. Let us, every time we worship, make sure that it is offered up from a pure life.

H. This is the way Paul commanded us to pray (1 Timothy 2:8).

From an article by Kevin Beard.