

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.