

# Pondering Personal Worship

One of the most neglected things in the lives of many Christians is personal worship. Most of us find the time to attend the public assemblies, but how many of us find the time for private communications with God. We are seemingly so busy with our goings-on that we have not the time to stop and extend to Him the kind of reverential respect He deserves. And when we have time to do so, we are very often so tired from our mundane pursuits that our effort dies for a want of energy.

We miss something special when we don't take the time to extol and venerate God as our Creator, our Sustainer. Every person needs a close, personal relationship with God, one where, without timidity or hesitation, he can pour out his heart in total freedom of expression, and give to Him for a little while, the total attention and adulation He deserves. After all it is "...in Him we live and move, and have our very being" (Acts 17:28).

The Psalms are chock-full of statements of praise and worship for Jehovah God. It's good to sit in a quiet place occasionally, and with full realization of who we are and Who He Is, to meditate on Psalms such as the 148th or the 19th – songs of praise and adoration which, with great expressions, exalt His grandeur and glory, the kind He deserves from the likes of each of us.

All God's creatures praise Him. All God's creation praises Him. But man is special. His worship is different because it comes from a free will; because it is an expression of volition, not necessity. Every man dishonors God when he neglects to praise and worship Him. Every man honors God when he offers his voluntary praise and devotion to Him. Every man's worship is special.

Worshiping God means we count Him worthy:

**By accepting His majesty and power.** The power of God is seen in the creation. How foolish to observe the world in which we live and the manner in which it operates and give no praise to Him who makes it all hold together. How foolish to draw blessings from all He has made without any recognition or thanksgiving for His power and majesty. "Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created" (Psalm 148:5).

**By total respect and regard for His will.** It is by the will of God that we exist in the first place. "In His own image created He them," we are told. He gave to all "life and breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25). We each exist by His divine will. Is that not ample reason for praising and adoring Him, for according to him the most high and noble feelings of our hearts? Surely it is! And, furthermore, is that not reason enough to subscribe to and maintain the purity of His word—the expression of His will— at all cost, knowing that we, in the ultimate reality, cannot change or alter it, seeing from whence it came? It's His will. We should honor and praise Him for it.

**By complete submission to His Son.** Oh, how we should praise Him for Jesus Christ! What joy it should bring to our heart to give to Him the adoring reverence and thanksgiving for the gift of His Son, Jesus the Christ of God, the personification of His will (John 1:17-18; 3:16), the total gift of His love, a will expressed and extended " while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8). Is that not ample reason for thanksgiving, for praise, for exclamations of veneration and respect?

In view of such magnificent expressions of love, in view of such graceful manifestations of care and concern, doesn't it just make good sense that we take a few minutes each day and let Him hear our personal conveyances of love and respect, of awe, adoration, and appreciation? Let us resolve that before this day is over we will make time to find a quiet place, bow our heads, and honor and praise Him with whom we have to do, Him who is our Great God.

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