

Concepts in Worship

- 2 II. Appreciation of worship...an appreciati'on of the privilege and reality of Christian worship in which the heart of the believer gives itself to the adoration of the Lord.

*(In review...we have previously discussed the basic definitions and concepts in worship and we have stressed three positive warnings: worship may not be legislated, cannot be mechanized, and should not be analyzed psychologically. The priority of worship and its naturalness have both been emphasized somewhat. It is an activity of the believer and as such forms a basic part of the individual life of the Chr#stian and the collective life of the "church.")*

2.1 A. Introductory remarks

1. To some, worship is a mystery, to others a fad, and to a few--just a bore...formal worship in collective company, that is. There are some who feel the time spent in worship would be better spent in external witness...but we have always noted that it is difficult to say to the world that we love Jesus if we are not first involved with telling the Lord Jesus that we love Him. The real proof of that love is obedience...a shown act of worship...but the verbal and heart adoration is certainly not out of order.
2. These various attitudes towards worship grow from a multitude of causes and misunderstandings. If our earlier definitions are kept in view...they will help. But it is also a help to keep in mind the privileged nature of worship... to know that it is our delight and privilege to fellowship with the Lord in a service of love.
3. We may promote this somewhat if we are able to develop an appreciation of worship...and that is what this discussion is about.

2.2 B. The Subject and Object of Worship: the Lord.

1. We say that the Lord is the subject...the principle party and the person who directs the thoughts of the heart...and we also say that He is the object...the One to whom we lovingly look and send forth our thoughts of praise. We can see this in a short analysis of Psalms 95 and 96. In these Psalms we worship the LORD (Jehovah)...a proper name applicable to the Father and to the Son. We bow before Him because of whom He is and what He has done and, in particular, because of the unique relationship He sustains to us as Maker, Shepherd, and Craftsman.
2. In the New Testament concept, and in the pattern of 1 Corinthians 15, our worship is particularly of the "risen Lord." This is also expressed in the text of 1 Cor. 11...a "remembering of Christ until He comes."

The New Testament (note Revelation 5) also presents Him for