

Being Mindful of Our Worship

12-2-12

Psalm 122:1 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."*

Are we ever guilty of “check-listing church”? Meaning, do we put together a list on Sunday that reads something like this:

- Show Up - check
- Sing some – check
- Pray – check
- Communion – check
- Give some – check
- Listen – check
- Smile – check

Then afterwards we say to ourselves “I have “done” church”; now I am free till Wednesday (or even next Sunday). We might call this “doing” church. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, ***doing*** means *the act of performing or executing*; in plural: *things that are done or that occur*. Consider that this is a great lie; the idea that God would accept 1/7 of our week as a fulfillment of obligations.

In Isaiah 29:11-14 God put this lie to death. He tells us that “lip-service” is unacceptable. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 that only a fool draws before God in worship insincerely. Finally, Paul told the Corinthians (I Corinthians 11:27-30) that they were eating and drinking judgment on themselves for not having the proper understanding of God in worship.

Instead of “doing” worship, God would have us be a people who are “living” worship. Consider Romans 12:1-2 and the “living sacrifice” that is the service of a believer. Consider the “living” way of the first Christians in Acts 2:42-47.

What if, instead of check-listing worship, we looked at that same list and found the following:

- Craving to be with Saints
- Singing praises from the heart and with understanding
- Pleading with God for mercy, comfort and thanks
- A moment discerning Christ and in the people with whom we share the moment
- Being the cheerful giver spoken of in Scripture
- Breaking the Bread of Life
- Rejoicing in the Lord, having real joy in Christ and in the household of faith

Too often we find ourselves complaining about our experience in worship. Most of the time, our negative experience is rooted in our attitude towards worship itself. What if we gave more in our hearts and being in worship? This is what it means to be mindful of what is happening around us in the moments we gather together; it means being purposeful; it means being intentional; it means having understanding of the moment, and what that moment cost.