

Going to the House of the Lord: Why We Worship on Sunday

2-22-15

When we think about worship in the Old Testament, we think of two parts to that worship. First there was the Priest's offerings and sacrifices (Hebrews 9:6). Secondly, there was the acts of the people that centered on days of worship (Leviticus 23:4). This teaches us that worship involved actions at specific times & places.

When Jesus came, He revealed that His covenant would have worship (John 4:19-23). We can determine that this meant specific actions at specific times & places. We are then told that this communal worship is more significant than the worship of the Old Testament (Hebrews 10:23-29). This causes us to ask the question: how do we find the New Worship?

While the Old Worship was given in the books of Exodus – Deuteronomy, we understand that the New Worship is not enumerated. Instead, it is revealed by the Pattern concept (Philippians 3:17). We need to realize that the significance of the pattern method is that it requires our investigation (2 Timothy 2:15). Why? God desires worshippers who want Him and are willing to search for Him (John 4:23).

How to Find the New Worship

First: It cannot be like that Old Covenant worship. Meaning, the Old Worship was carnal, the New is Spiritual. So it is not done with physical instruments. Too, we are told that the Old Worship days are also done away with (Colossians 2:16 *Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.*)

Second: Paul said that the substance (of worship) belongs to Christ. Let us think about what this means. Consider for example the most important day of Old Worship: the Passover. How is Christ the substance of this? 1 Corinthians 5:7 *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.* Christ's sacrifice fulfills the promises of Passover; therefore our WORSHIP surrounds His sacrifice. His Sacrifice is His death, burial and resurrection. What part of Worship points to His death? According to 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, our action of partaking of communion points to His death with the emblems we use. What part of Worship points to His resurrection? One thing the Gospels all focus in on with His resurrection was the day it happened 9 (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1, John 20:1).

We have made a necessary inference into the day of communal worship in the New Worship. Is there any other indication that this was the necessary mark of our coming together? In Acts 20:6-7 we have an example of Christians meeting on just this day to partake of communion. This example is particularly useful in that Paul waited an entire week for the meeting of the Saints. We are told that Paul was hurrying to get to Jerusalem (Acts 20:16), so this wait could be seen as a great delay. Why not meet Monday? Wednesday? Saturday? Why meet on the MOST INCONVENIENT day (being a full 6 days away)? The ONLY answer is that this was the ONLY Day that Christians met to partake of Communion.

Conclusions

Worship is specific acts in specific times & places. Since it includes worship, the New Covenant requires an assembling to worship. This worship revolves around the New Passover, the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. There is ONLY ONE DAY possible for this to happen. To reject this rejects New Covenant Worship