

## **Pastor's Sharing – The worship of modern people      Rev. Almon LI (4/5/2014)**

People living in the 21st century are busy, working very hard from Monday to Saturday. Men are certainly stressful in their jobs. Women are also faithful in their household works, in escorting their kids to attend tuition classes, extra-curriculum activities; some mothers even have to go to work in order to support their families financially. Therefore, both men and women long for Sunday, on which they can relax, or wake up a little bit late. Do we believers have the same attitude that on Sunday we want to wake up late and leave home late for worship? Is this the reason why we cannot be punctual to attend Sunday services?



Many believers are always in a hurry when coming and leaving the Sunday services. Do you think that God will accept this kind of worship? Would brothers and sisters review, after each Sunday service, what your motives and attitudes are? Have I come close to God today? What have I got from God's word? What has God got from me?

You might blame the pastor for asking such critical questions. You might think that it was not easy for you to attend the worship on each Sunday, let alone to spare time on reflection. Why do we need to worry that God would not accept my worship?

If you did have the above in mind, you might have lost the refreshing feeling on worship. You should examine your spiritual status if you worship God with a tired body, simply because of your responsibility as a Christian, instead of a strong desire to worship. A little sense of responsibility cannot motivate you to worship on a regular basis. This is not a problem that can be solved by going to another church, changing the worship ministry deacon, or employing a pastor who is good at preaching.

More importantly, we should go back to the Bible to understand the true meaning of worship. Why should we worship God? What is worshipping? Then we should learn how to worship God.

Today let us first see why we should worship God. David Hubbard, former President of Fuller Seminary of Theology, said, "The Church should do on earth what it will do in the Heaven". From the visions that Apostle John saw in the Revelation, we can learn some lessons on worship.

### **A. Confirmation of Identity**

#### **1. Worship to the Creator by the Created**

In the vision that Apostle John saw, there was a door standing open and a throne stood in heaven. There were four living creatures around the throne and on each side of the throne. Day and night they never stop saying "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelations 4:8)

At the same time, around the throne were 24 elders. And whenever the living creatures worship, the 24 elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

The above depict the scene of the worship in heaven. The 24 elders represent the 12 ancestors and the 12 apostles, symbolising the unity of the old and new people. From this picture, we can see that God’s people come in front of the throne, casting all their thrones before the throne. They, in their capacity of the created, worship the Lord who created all things.



Therefore, when we come to worship God, we should worship Him in our capacity as the created. We should worship Him without any vanity of the world and spiritual pride because He is the Almighty Lord and Holy God. We worship Him because He is mighty, holy and righteous.

Today we just focus our attention to this point: why should we worship? We will discuss the other points next time.

To sum up, we should worship God because He is the Creator. He created us but He has not ignored us after the creation. He has taken care of our needs and kept on supplying what we need. Therefore, Jesus Christ reminds us that we should not worry about tomorrow. God even feeds the birds of the air which do not sow or reap; He also clothes the flowers of the field which do not labor or spin. Why does He not take care of us, who He loves and treasures? The Bible reminds us that we should seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. As for the things we need, our Heavenly Father knows very well and He will give us what we need, according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, we should not be worrying and busy in our works because we will be deprived of quality of life by being busy. This will directly affect our worship to God, the Creator. We should think for what we live; we should recall that our life is originated from God. Therefore we should accord the top priority of our daily living to God, by reserving time for worship and enjoying being close to Him. If we really know that we should give glory to our Creator, then the almighty God will definitely take care of our families, children, careers, finance, health....

I do hope that, from now on, brothers and sisters should no longer come and go in a hurry when worshipping God. Instead you should give the best offering to God, by meeting the Creator with a strong desire and enjoying the encounter with Him.