

Prayer List

Judy
Wallace
Sheila
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

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Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

Who used a stone for a pillow?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Joshua - Joshua 5:15

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Making Today's Worship Meaningful by Dee Bowman

Worship is vital to the spiritual welfare of the Christian. It gives us the opportunity to make our adoring reverence real, our desire to please the Master practical. Thanks be to Him, He has not left us without information as to what is pleasing to Him and how we can respect and revere Him.

First, He wants your heart. There is no true worship without the involvement of the inner man. To worship Him is to seek Him and that seeking begins in the heart. It begins by recognizing Him as the true God, as the Creator, as the Savior of mankind. It begins by acknowledging our need for Him, our respect and admiration for all He has done, our thanksgiving for His providence. Give Him your heart and you have commenced to worship Him. See Matthew 22:37.

Second, He wants your mind. Worship is more than an emotional experience; it involves the mind. It is the mind that recognizes God for what He is. It is the mind that determines love and plans appreciation. It is the mind that glorifies and exalts. It is the mind with which we ascertain what is pleasing to Him so that we may know for a certainty that we are

pleasing Him. If you don't worship with your mind you don't worship at all. See Romans 1:21-23.

Third, He wants your agreement. Agreement with God equals fellowship with Him. It means you have looked at His word and agreed to be part of Him. It means He now has control of your life and that your worship of Him is not some subjective experience you have conjured up in your own mind, but the reverential respect you have determined to be acceptable to Him. You bow your knee before Him, allowing Him control of all that you are. There can be no genuine worship where there is not genuine unity. See 1 John 1:1-10.

Fourth, He wants your attention. Just because the acts of worship in which you participate are approved of God does not assure that your worship is acceptable. Worship demands attention. You can't celebrate the Lord's Supper and have your mind on something else all the while. You can't sing praises to Him and be thinking about your job, or your friends, or what's for lunch. Concentration is what worship is all about in the first place; it is a proper focus, a genuine desire to find and please the object of your affection. Tune in or you're tuned out. See 1 Corinthians 11:27-28.

True worship is good for the heart, good for the soul, good for the mind. True worship brings you into close proximity to the Father. It strengthens your resolve, guards against sin, galvanizes your hope, elongates your view. Take heed today and make your worship what it ought to be and you will leave happy and satisfied, forgiven and strengthened.

GOD HAS SPOKEN

As the war between good and evil, truth and error continues to rage in the world today, even so there is a war

being waged within each one of us. It is flesh versus spirit, doubt versus faith. God's truth versus human wisdom, pride versus humility, submission to God versus self-will. The strategies we encounter in the war without are much the same as the strategies of the war within each of us. Weaknesses are exploited, doubts are magnified, intimidation is attempted; but the whole armor of God, properly utilized, is superior to the wiles and attacks of evil (Eph. 6:10-20).

Paul described our situation thus: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you may not do the things that you wish" (Gal. 5:16,17). We must exercise self-control, the spiritual mind over the carnal appetites, and thus put to death the sinful inclinations of the body (Col. 3:1-11), things that children of disobedience still give themselves to. Paul also perceived a law or principle that as he would seek to do good, evil was present (Rom. 7:22), and the only way to victory is through Jesus Christ. He said: "I therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so fight I, as not beating the air: but I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected" (1 Cor. 9:26,27). The victory is to those who are faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). We must resist the devil "steadfast in the faith" (1Pet. 5:9), and understand that the same sufferings and conflicts are common to the saints of God.

Let us give thanks to God for deliverance in Christ by means of forgiveness of our sins through obedience to Him. Let us be thankful that the spirit can overrule the carnal desires, and let us all "fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7).