



We Shall Assemble on the Mountain!

Intro: We worship God because He is worthy. Cf. Rev. 4:11; 5:12. Man is not worthy of worship nor are the things man invents; yet, man invents many things that occupy his time and energy in praise, love and affection. Man must worship the right object. What are the types of worship, either right or wrong, revealed in the NT?

- VAIN Worship**—When we follow the commandments of men instead of God’s instructions, our worship becomes vain. Vain worship is empty, hollow, and useless; it will do us no good. If it is vain, it would be as though we had not worshipped God at all and we will be lost. When we worship in the way "we want" then God is dishonored and insulted. Cf. Matt. 15:7-9; Mk. 7:7. The word “vain” is an adverb from *maten*, meaning, “fruitlessly.” Vain worship is unacceptable.
- IGNORANT Worship**—When the apostle Paul was in Athens, he encountered people who were worshiping all kinds of false gods, as well as One whom they called “*The Unknown God.*” He took the opportunity to tell them about “*the One whom you worship without knowing*” (Acts 17:16-31). While preaching to them, he let them know that “*these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent*” (v. 30). Ignorant worship is unacceptable.
- CREATURE Worship**—The Creator is self-existent, unconditioned and unlimited in power and knowledge. The creature owes its very existence to the Creator. To substitute the worship of the creature for that of the Creator is the height of perverseness and folly, meriting the retribution of the wrath of God, thus resulting in the “lie.” Paul uses the definite article in Rom 1:25; it is not a lie, but the lie. The lie is essentially idolatry - which puts us in the place of God; it is the lie you will be like God (Gen. 3:5). **Creature worship is unacceptable.**
- SELF-IMPOSED Worship**—To the Colossians, Paul talked about doctrines & commandments which, while appearing wise & godly, nevertheless originated with men. He referred to this as “*self-imposed worship,*” or as in the KJV, “*will worship*” (Col. 2:20-23). Thus, God is not pleased with those that “*Will Worship,*” or self impose upon themselves that which is not allowed. Self-imposed worship is unacceptable.
- TRUE Worship**—True worship is God-centered! True worshipers worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). This means worship is from the heart and the way God has designed, and is reserved only for God. Only He is worthy and not any of His servants (Rev. 19:10). We are not to worship saints, prophets, statues, angels, any false gods, or Mary, the mother of Jesus. Worship is to glorify and exalt God—to show our loyalty, respect, appreciation and admiration to our Father. **True worship is the only worship that God will accept and approve.**

Con: The highest form worship is obedience to God and His Word. We must obey Him instead of man.

- Mark N. Posey

SERMON: Four ALL’s in the Great Commission!
TEXT: Matthew 28:18-20

1. ALL Authority!
2. ALL Nations!
3. ALL Things!
4. ALL the Days!

SERMON: 10 Commandments from JAMES!
TEXT: James 4:7-10

1. Submit yourselves to God.
2. Resist the Devil.
3. Draw near to God.
4. Cleanse your hands.
5. Purify your hearts.
6. Be afflicted.
7. Mourn.
8. Weep.
9. Humble yourselves.
10. Speak not evil one of another.

SERMON: 12 Resurrection Appearances of Jesus!

1. To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11).
2. To the other women (Matt. 28:9-10).
3. To Peter (Luke 24:34).
4. To two disciples (Luke 24:13-32).
5. To ten apostles (Luke 24:33-49).
6. To Thomas & the other apostles (John 20:28-30).
7. To seven apostles (John 21).
8. To all the apostles (Matt. 28:16-20).
9. To all the apostles (Acts 1:4-9).
10. To 500 brethren (1 Cor. 15:6).
11. To James (1 Cor. 15:7).
12. To Paul (1 Cor. 15:7).

SERMON: All I do – I do for Christ!
TEXT: 1 Peter 2:13-3:9

1. I will submit to governing authorities (2:13-14) in order to silence the ignorance of foolish men (2:12-13).
2. I will submit as a Servant to his Master (2:12-13) because this is pleasing to God (2:19-20).
3. I will submit as a wife to her husband in holy conduct (3:1) in order to win the unbeliever (3:1).
4. I will be understanding & honorable to my wife (3:7) so our prayers will not be hindered (3:7).
5. I will live humbly (i.e., not returning evil for evil) with others (3:8-9) in order to inherit a blessing (3:9). **(MNP)**

SERMON: Be Still and Know that I am God!
TEXT: Psalm 46:10

Statement: Get on your knees and talk to God about men; now, get on your feet and talk to men about God! Cf. 1 Peter 2:9-10

1. Be still & know that God is Gracious (Ps. 145:8).
2. Be still & know that God is Glorious (Isa. 43:7).
3. Be still & know that God is Good (Rom. 2:4).
4. Be still & know that God is Great (Jer. 10:6).
5. Be still & know that God is Gentle (Isa. 40:11). **(MNP)**

SERMON: FIVE GREAT BIBLE SHIPS!

TEXT: 2 Peter 3:18

Intro: Apply these principles and you will grow stronger!

1. WarSHIP – John 4:24; Hebrews 13:15-16; Acts 20:7.
2. LeaderSHIP – 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 2:3; Mt. 20:28; Prov. 11:14.
3. StewardSHIP – 1 Cor. 4:2; Acts 6:1-6; Matt. 25:14-30.
4. DiscipleSHIP – Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2; Acts 2:42.
5. FellowSHIP - Heb. 10:24-25; Gal. 6:2; John 17:21-23.

Con: Thank God from Whom all blessings flow! **(MNP)**

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email each month. Editor: Mark N. Posey D.D., preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to—pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**

SERMON: The Resurrection!**TEXT: Colossians 3:1**

- **A Proof – Romans 4:25.**
- **A Pattern – Romans 6:4.**
- **A Power – Ephesians 1:18-20.**
- **A Promise – 1 Thess. 4:14.**
- **A Pledge – John 14:19. (MNP)**

SERMON: Jesus is ALL the World to Me!**TEXT: Colossians 3:4, “When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

1. **Jesus is all the world to my FAITH!** John 8:24, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
2. **Jesus is all the world to my FAMILY!** Ephesians 6:1, 4 – *children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right...fathers...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
3. **Jesus is all the world to my FUTURE!** Col. 3:1, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” (MNP)

SERMON: The Transforming Truth of our Co-Resurrection!**TEXT: Colossians 3:1, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”**

1. **The Reminder:** “if then you were raised with Christ” (3:1a).
2. **The Responsibility:** “seek those things which are above” (3:1b).
3. **The Resource:** “where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God” (3:1c). (MNP)

SERMON: Bible!**TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:16****B– Buy one!** The Bible is available.**I– Investigate it!** Mine the gems.**B– Believe it!** With all your heart.**L– Love it!** With all your life.**E– Exemplify it!** Live it everyday. (MNP)**SERMON: One Nation Under God!****TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:12-4:8****Intro:** Notice the phrase “all who desire to live godly.” What does that mean? We must live **GODLY** lives! Here’s how we do it...

1. **The Godly must KNOW God’s Word INTIMATELY (3:14-17).**
2. **The Godly must PROCLAIM God’s Word BOLDLY (4:1-4).**
3. **The Godly must LIVE God’s Word UNAPOLOGETICALLY (4:5-8).**

Con: Psalm 33:12 says, “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.*” (MNP)**SERMON: Thank God for the SCRIPTURES!****TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:15-17**

- **Holy Scriptures (v.15a).**
- **Lead us to salvation (v.15b).**
- **True and dependable (v.16a).**
- **Profitable (v.16b).**
- **Equip us for service (v.17).**

SERMON: God’s Word in YOU**TEXT: Colossians 3:16, “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!”**

- **The word of God should have a place of honor!**
- **The word of God should have a place of trust!**
- **The word of God should have a place of rule!**
- **The word of God should have a place of love!**
- **The word of God should have a place of permanence!**

Con: Does God’s Word rank in your heart? (MNP)**SERMON: Freedom in Christ!****TEXT: John 8:31-36**

1. **Independence from sin, death and dying (Romans 8:1-2).**
2. **Dependence on God (Matt. 5:3), Christ (Rom. 5:1-2) and God’s Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16-17).**
3. **Interdependent on those of like precious faith (Gal. 3:28), Church (Acts 20:32) and God’s Word (1 Peter 2:1-3). (MNP)**

SERMON: Cross Bearers!**TEXT: Luke 9:23, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”****Thesis:** To show some of the blessings of bearing the cross each day.**Introduction:** We love to sing about “The Old Rugged Cross,” but do we love to bear it? The follower of Christ voluntarily, willingly and decisively accepts the pain, shame and persecution that come because of his loyalty to Christ and His cause. Jesus identifies the regularity of this association with the word “daily.” Consider some the blessings of bearing the cross each day.

1. We become **PARTAKERS** in the suffering of Christ (1 Pet. 4:13). Cf. Matt. 16:21; Lk. 9:22; Ps. 22; Lk. 24:46; Acts 3:18; Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12; 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:21; 4:1; Isa. 53:4-6, stricken, smitten, afflicted, wounded and bruised.
2. We become **PARTNERS** in the death, burial & resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
 - **Death of Jesus.** The death of Jesus is the central event in the history of humanity.
 - **Burial of Jesus.**
 - **Resurrection of Jesus.** The resurrection is the foundation for the hope of life beyond the grave.
3. We become **PARTICIPANTS** in the cause of Christ (Luke 9:23). Christ died so that we may live (Gal. 2:20). We live with anticipation of His return (Tit. 2:11-14).
 - We must deny self – Phil. 1:21.
 - Take up His cross daily – Phil. 2:16.
 - Follow Him – 1 Pet. 2:21.

Con: What a privilege, glory & honor to bear the cross with Jesus. Christians are blessed with the greatest association in the world; we have fellowship with the Lord!**- Mark N. Posey****SERMON: Freedom In Christ!****TEXT: Galatians 6:1-5. *In Christ...***

1. **We have FREEDOM from Sin (Romans 8:2a).**
2. **We have FREEDOM from Death (Rom. 8:2b).**
3. **We have FREEDOM from Destruction (Heb. 10:39). (MNP)**

Illustration: President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Sept 22, 1862. The moment it went into effect on Jan 1, 1863, every slave living in the Confederacy was legally free. But until they knew of their freedom, the legal fact had no impact on their lives. In fact, Union soldiers carried hundreds of thousands of copies of the proclamation and passed them out as they made their way through the South during the war. Christ has set us free from power of sin. We must recognize that fact and live like it.**SERMON: Four-Fold Incentive to JOY****TEXT: Philippians 2:1**

1. “*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ?*” – Luke 2:25; 2 Cor. 1:5; 2 Thess. 2:16.
2. “*If any comfort of love?*” – 2 Cor. 1:3. Comfort = paraklesis (strengthen, help, make strong).
3. “*If any fellowship of the Spirit?*” – 2 Cor. 13:14. Fellowship = *kononia* (sharing common things).
4. “*If any affection & compassion?*” – All Christian know of God’s affection & compassion! **MNP**

SERMON: 4 things Belonging to Christ!**TEXT: Seen in the context of Philippians**

1. **Gospel of Christ (Phil 1:27) - our theme.**
2. **Work of Christ (Phil 2:30) - our employment.**
3. **Knowledge of Christ (Phil 3:8) - our study.**
4. **Power of Christ (Phil 4:13) - our strength. MNP**