

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

April 11, 2006

Just Who Is Serving Whom?

Rick Liggin

It is not uncommon for us in churches of Christ to refer to our regular worship periods as “worship services” – and I personally do not have a problem with that. Admittedly, it is not a Biblical expression; there is no place in Scripture where an assembly of saints is called a “worship service.” But I *do* believe that the phrase *does* express a Biblical concept. When the church assembles itself together for worship, it does offer up a service to God! We *do* serve God in our worship! And so, the point of this article is not to oppose the use of this legitimate phrase.

My concern is that some of us have developed a wrong view about the “worship services.” In fact, there’s a real sense in which, I fear, that some of us have gotten things completely inverted or turned around!

You see, when we normally think of “services,” we think of buying the services of some company or taking advantage of (using) the *services* offered by some institution. The point is that when we speak of “services,” we most often think of services rendered *to us*. And that’s where my concern is raised.

I am afraid that some of us have come to think of “worship services” as a time of worship when *we are served!* Now, it’s not that we think that we are worshipped! We know better than that! But the point is, I fear, that some of us get the aim of the “worship services” inverted in our minds: we begin to think of worship services as being something designed to serve us! And folks, that’s just not the case!

“Worship services” are not designed to serve us, nor are they designed to provide us with some kind of “service.” Sure, we will be edified if we worship God according to His design and instructions; but this primarily is a by-product of our “worship services.” We need to understand that worship is not something that happens to us! It’s something that happens to God, something we *do to Him!* We serve Him in our “worship services” – not the other way around! And yet, this seems to be the idea circulating in the minds of some.

Too many seem to be satisfied to come to “worship services” just to sit there and “let it happen”! They see worship as a kind of “spectator sport,” which is supposed to do something for them. If you don’t think this is so, just listen to how many folks complain about “not getting anything out of it.”

Don’t you dare look at the worship period as a time when you come to be “served” or served in some way. Worship to God is not a “spectator sport”! It’s not something that happens to us! It’s something we do to God! We must never forget *just who is serving whom* when it comes to worship. In our “worship services,” we serve God! And that, folks, takes energy and activity and zealous participation on the part of all those who claim to be worshipping.

Make no mistake about it: God is looking for true worshippers – spiritual people who will worship Him “in spirit and in truth” (**John 4:23-24**). If you’re looking for a church where the worship services somehow serve you, then you’ll need to go find another church. Why? Because in the church of our Lord, the “worship services” are for serving God, not ourselves!

Did Jesus Walk on Water or Ice?

Troy Nicholson

Matthew 14 tells us that Jesus walked on water. The latest issue of the *Journal of Paleolimnology* says that He may have walked on ice.

A scientist claims that the Sea of Galilee may have had hard-to-see patches of ice on it at the time of Jesus, allowing Him to merely appear to walk on water while really walking on ice. He said that during the time period when Jesus lived, such “spring ice” may have formed once every 30 to 60 years.

According to this scientist’s “research,” the disciples had a one in 11,000 to 22,000 chance (based on the number of days in 30 to 60 years) of being on the sea a night that had the patches of ice in the water, and they just happened to be on it that night. Even after sailing “*a considerable distance*” (:24) on the sea with ice patches, they must not have noticed the ice – for they never mentioned it as a possible explanation for what they saw Jesus do. Also, Jesus was somehow able to step on “hard-to-see patches of ice” from the shore all the way out to their boat, doing so in a way that made it look like He was walking on water (:26). Peter just happened to step out of the boat (:29) onto a patch of ice – without realizing that was what he did. Then he must have stepped off a patch when he began to sink (:30) – again without realizing there was ice on the sea. Jesus, while standing on a patch of ice, was able to reach down and pull Peter up out of the water and get him back to the boat (:31-32).

This scientist nearly two thousand years later is leading people to conclude that all the above requirements were in place for Jesus to be able to fool the disciples. The disciples who witnessed the account concluded, “*Truly You are the Son of God*” (:33). Which really takes the greater faith to believe?

“I will sing of the LORD’S great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.” – Psalm 89:1

Family News

Neil Barker, Sandy Heyboer's father, was admitted to Williamson Medical Center last night. He was placed on oxygen because his blood oxygen level was low. He also has a low sodium level.

Linda Clark, James Fuller's mother, has very severe breathing problems.

Elmo Ferrell has a bad back and has been in pain this past week.

Sandra Hunt continues to have a high pain level in her right shoulder and arm. She should get blood test results this Friday.

Candy Jenkins has had bronchitis this past week. She is still not fully recovered, but is much improved.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He remains about the same.

Ruth Kelly, who used to be a member here, has cancer in several major organs. She is not any better and the outlook is not good.

Harvey Nicholson, Troy's father, had by-pass surgery for five blockages Friday at Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia. He is doing well.

Fran Pickens has a lot of knee pain.

Helen Pye, who used to be a member here, is now in NHC across from Hendersonville Hospital. She will be there for about two more weeks.

Laura Reed continues to be about the same.

Georgia Taylor continues to have many health problems.

Ame White continues to be about the same.

Robert Wray's eyesight continues to deteriorate.

Michael Zoladz, Joyce Werner's 46-year-old nephew, has brain cancer. His pain is being effectively controlled with pain medicine. He now loses his balance easily, and, therefore, cannot walk very well.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Sandy Heyboer**

Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

www.BibleSaints.com

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

Troy Nicholson

trojenn@intergate.com

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).