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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **What sort of worship makes God sick?**

## **1) Worship from one who is not living an obedient life to God is sickening to God:**

### **Proverbs 28:9**

9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,  
Even his prayer is an abomination.

### **Proverbs 15:8**

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Sacrifice for the people in the OT meant worship – this is how they worshiped God. This passage teaches that if a person was living a wicked life and then came to offer sacrifice (or worship) it would be considered an "abomination." An "abomination" means something extremely repulsive to God.

Now, these are OT passages, but we learn the same truth in the NT. Consider this passage:

### **1 John 3:22**

22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

### **John 9:31**

31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

All of these passages are teaching us this: **If we want to pray to God in a time of great need, we must be on speaking terms beforehand.**

Ask yourself this: How would you feel if someone treated you hatefully and the only time they were nice to you is when they wanted something? And then ... after you felt sorry for them and helped that person out, they turned your back on you and treated you hatefully just like before. How would you feel? You would probably not very well toward this person who was using you only when they needed you. Yet this is how many people treat the Lord.

### **John 14:15**

15 [Jesus said] "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

## **2) Worship that is not according to the NT scriptures is sickening to God:**

### **Matthew 15:9**

9 And in vain they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

This means when men invent their own ways of worshiping God, it is worthless. God has told us in the NT how to conduct worship services. In order for God to accept us and our worship, we must follow the instructions He gave.

The NT teaches:

- Singing must be done without mechanical instruments of music (Eph 5:19).
- The Lord's supper must be eaten every Sunday (Acts 20:7).
- Only one loaf of unleavened bread and one cup with unfermented fruit of the vine may be used in the Lord's supper (1 Cor 11:23-25).
- Women must remain silent in all assemblies conducted by the church (1 Cor 14:34-35). This is one reason Bible classes are wrong. According to this passage women may not even ask questions in assemblies conducted by the church.
- The assembly must not be divided into classes (1 Cor 14:23-40); rather, everyone must stay assembled in one place. This, again, explains why Bible classes are wrong.

Many people think instrumental music is pleasing and acceptable with God because they themselves like it. If they like instrumental music, they think God must like it. Others think God would like dancing and handclapping and shouting because that's that they themselves like. They think, "If I like dancing and shouting and handclapping, then God must like it too." But let me ask you this: *When people choose a restaurant to eat at, do they choose a place that serves food they like or food the manager likes?* Isn't that a silly question? We understand that what one person enjoys does not necessarily mean another person likes it. For me to know what you like to eat, I have to ask you and you have to tell me.

### **1 Corinthians 2:11**

11 ... no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

This passage means that, if we want to know what God likes, we have to listen to the Spirit of God. But now the question is: How do we listen to the Spirit of God? Listen:

### **1 Corinthians 2:10**

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. ...

This is speaking about the apostles. God has revealed, thru His Holy Spirit, the things which He wants us to know. He has revealed what He likes and dislikes – what pleases Him and what displeases Him. If we want God to accept our worship, we must offer the worship which He has revealed thru His holy apostles.

Think about these things the next time you think about worshiping God. Ask yourself if the church where you attend is worshiping God according to the scriptures, or have they changed things to suit themselves. Remember, what suits men and makes men feel good does not necessarily mean it pleases God.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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