

Inadequate Worship

Cultural churches: "In general the churches...bore for me the same relation to God that the bill boards did to Coca-Cola: they promoted thirst without quenching it." - *John Updike, A Month of Sundays*

Faithless Offerings

Genesis 4:3-5 3And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Two offerings made and one is respected and the other rejected. Oh what implications this has also for the church of today. Why was Cain's offering not respected? First we are not told what type of offering it was; was it for sin? If so then Cain failed in bringing the wrong type offering for we are told that without blood there is no remission of sin.

Leviticus 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

God himself has established this pattern in **Genesis 3:21** *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

Was the reason that Cain's offering was not respected because of poor or inferior quality as compared to Abel's? We are told in God's word to bring Him the first fruits and first born as an acceptable offering.

Exodus 13:2 *Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.*

Proverbs 3:9 *Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

Perhaps the problem with Cain's offering was more than just being the wrong type, or of inferior quality; perhaps it was also a matter of the heart? As always the best commentary on scripture is scripture itself.

Hebrews 11:4 *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

Cain and Abel were both making an offering and clearly instructions had been given on the proper offering and how to give it however, this is not specifically told us in scripture, but Cain and Abel knew; and Abel had respect and obedience to the offering and Cain did not.

It is a warning for us today beloved; inadequate worship has taken hold in many churches which bring in the wrong type of worship and an inferior worship and finally a faithless worship. You see it was BY FAITH that Abel brought a more perfect sacrifice than Cain. Abel was in obedience to God and what God required of the offering. Today many churches have left God's way and worship in their own way; sadly they have went the way of Cain and presented unto the LORD –inadequate worship.

The Way of Cain and Balaam

"Worship is no longer worship when it reflects the culture around us more than the Christ within us" - *A.W.Tozer*

Jude 1:11 *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

The way of Cain and the error of Balaam have crept into the pulpits of the churches and from there into the hearts and minds of its people. Many churches have forsaken the right way. They worship after the natural man and not the

spiritual man. They have lifted up inadequate worship filled with worldliness, pleasing to the senses, and powerless to convict the heart of sin and the need for repentance and salvation.

2Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1Corinthians 2:14 14But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned

Cultural and Convenient Christians have forsaken truth for unity and chosen the relativism of the world over the righteousness of Christ. They have chosen preachers that preach from their own hearts and not in obedience to the LORD. Preachers who teach them to error and proclaim a false gospel from their own heart which causes many to stumble

2Peter 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Matthew 15:9 *But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

Revelation 2:14 *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

Today's churches cast many a stumbling block before those that they are supposed to be ministering too; and many hearing the false preaching are ignorant of it! Oh if they would search the scriptures as the Bereans did and know the truth; forsaking inadequate worship.

Strange Fire

“Cultural Christianity is as easily put on and removed as the clothes we wear.” – *R.E.G.*

Leviticus 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Exodus 30:9 Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.

Exactly what this strange fire was we are not told; but what we do know is that it was not commanded by the LORD and therefore was done in disobedience to the will of God.

Today there is much 'strange fire in the churches. Any worship not in accordance with the Word of God is strange fire and is being offered up before the LORD and will devour those that hear and accept it.

Strange fire:

Homosexual Clergy
Same sex marriage
Christ Consciousness-
Calvinism
Emergent Church-Eastern Mysticism, Meditative Prayer
Word-Faith Movement

Any fire not kindled by the Holy Spirit and in accordance with the Word of God is strange fire and it will spiritually consume those that are deceived by it. Is not obedience to the LORD's truth better than sacrifice?

1Samual 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

Inadequate worship leads to ignorant worship.

Deceptive Worship

“Self-Deception is a cruel reality when discovered” – R.E.G.

Act 5:1-9 1But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. 3But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? 4Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 7And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Sadly today many individual Christians and churches give inadequate worship by holding back from the one who deserves our all. Whether it is by bringing the wrong worship, having the wrong heart, holding back full commitment, full service, and full sacrifice; many may think they get away with it but, the reality is that you cannot lie to God. Holding back from God only deceives you; God cannot be fooled, to think otherwise is just a fool dancing in his folly.

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their lips*; but their heart is far from me.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Many a collective church body and also individual Christians have been deceived by the devil and think they are giving pleasing worship to the LORD; but many are willingly ignorant of true worship and deceiving themselves and those around them.

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

God is not fooled; cannot be deceived and will not be mocked; The LORD see's inadequate worship for what it is and He has not respect unto it.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Making the evil seem good in all he did, in all he taught,
He kept this aim in sight;
To get the deeds of darkness done, disguised as works of light.
He spread his poison, slow and sure, through many a specious sect and made evil seem good, bamboozling God's elect.

Inadequate Worship leads to Destruction

“Only the dead have seen the end of war” –*attributed to Plato*

The Charge of the Light Brigade was a charge of British light cavalry led by Lord Cardigan against Russian forces during the Battle of Balaclava on 25 October 1854 in the Crimean War. Lord Raglan, overall commander of the British forces, had intended to send the Light Brigade to prevent the Russians from removing captured guns from overrun Turkish positions, a task well-suited to light cavalry.

However, there was miscommunication in the chain of command, and the Light Brigade was instead sent on a frontal assault against a different artillery battery, one well-prepared with excellent fields of defensive fire. They reached the battery under withering direct fire and scattered some of the gunners, but they were forced to retreat immediately. Thus, the assault ended with very high British casualties and no decisive gains. -wikipedia

Due to a miscommunication a battle was lost. Beloved today we are in a battle and our warfare is for the hearts and souls of mankind. Our warfare is spiritual and against darkness. We have been given the TRUTH from our LORD and Savior; our order's come from His Holy Word, but in many churches that truth is being miscommunicated and the result is inadequate worship which leads to unprepared Christians failing to advance the gospel and defend the faith.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Our LORD has prepared us by His word and we are strengthened through right worship in accordance with His commandments and will. However sadly there are many deceivers that have crept into pulpits and many have desired the strange fire and inadequate worship to be heaped upon themselves; full of self-deception they will fair no better than the 'Light Brigade'. They will be unfruitful workers and shall bring destruction upon themselves. It doesn't have to be...REPENT and give the acceptable worship the LORD seeks.

God's Pattern for Worship

“In our worship we are sustained; it is in our walk we bear fruit.” – *R.E.G.*

Beloved the LORD has given us in His Holy Word the instruction we need for right worship. He created us; and in His image He made us, even though sin has marred that image God knows how best to restore that image, He knows what speaks to the fallen nature, what best instructs and restores it. His way speaks to the heart and consciousness of man. Let us follow His ways and forsake inadequate worship.

I Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him in spirit and in truth*.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

JESUS SAVES- To God be the Glory

R.E.G.