

“A Call to Worship” Psalm 96:9

⁹ Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!
Tremble before Him, all the earth.
Psalm 96:9 (NKJV)

I. Regular worship services –

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

1. *The regulative principle of worship –*

The belief that worship is regulated by God’s Word (The Bible) and that our worship should not have in it elements that are not found in God’s Word. Key passages for many who believe this doctrine are Exodus 30:9 (NKJV) ⁹ You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. &

Leviticus 10:1–3 (NKJV) 10 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. ² So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ” So Aaron held his peace.

Point is, Nadab and Abihu offered strange incense, “profane fire” before the LORD and died because of it.

2. *Now, New Testament worship is different than Old Testament, but most in churches like ours still believe worship is regulated by God’s Word –*

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

Acts 2:42 gives us the BASIC IDEA:

- A. *Apostle’s doctrine from the Bible, preaching / teaching*
- B. *Breaking of bread – the Lord’s Supper*
- C. *Prayers –*
- D. *Other passages of Scripture would show how the offering, baptism, singing are all part of God’s worship!*

3. *Some things are condemned by Scripture –*

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:4–6 (NKJV)

4. *Most people who practice the “regulative principle” and we do, not only avoid what is condemned but we also do not include what is not commanded, for instance:*

- A. *We do not have skits on plays during our morning worship.*
- B. *We don’t have animal blessings.*
- C. *We don’t have altar calls!*

5. *Obviously, there are different interpretations of the regulative principle –*

- A. *Some believe we should only sing Biblical Psalms, not hymns.*
- B. *Some believe we should not use musical instruments, but I do not see how that is Biblical*

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³ **Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! ⁴ Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! ⁵ Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Psalm 150:3–5 (NKJV)**

6. *Beware of REGULATION without God’s Word –*

¹¹ **Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)**

Some churches with a reformed background have the regulation without God’s Word being in their minds or hearts. These are typically boring, very small churches ...

7. *Charismatic worship is typically guided by the empowering of God’s Spirit, this I believe is good!*

- A. *However, like Reformed Churches can be regulated yet neglecting God’s Word, so also Charismatic churches can be empowered yet without God’s Holy Spirit –*

They are empowered by loud music, energetic and emotional movement, like jumping up and down, but they have not really prayed down God’s Spirit –

⁹ **“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”**
Luke 11:9–13 (NKJV)

B. *Spirit empowered worship, is glorious -*

³¹ **And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.**
Acts 4:31 (NKJV)

C. *True Spirit empowered worship will not bring strange elements in –*

¹⁹ **Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good.**
1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (NKJV)

No barking like dogs or falling on the floor for no reason!

We should aim to be both Spirit empowered, and Word regulated in our worship!

II. Worship outside of Sunday services –

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD! Psalm 150:6 (NKJV)

1. *Worship in the narrow sense is when we gather on Sundays –*

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

This is what we have already considered!

2. *Worship in the broader sense is ascribing WORTH to God, giving Him glory, this should include EVERYTHING we do -*

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

A. *Eating and drinking are things we do regularly, in context Paul was speaking about eating meat offered to idols ...*

B. *This also could be in reference to celebratory eating and drinking –*

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this day is holy* to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV)

C. *It could apply to dieting, avoiding gluttony or drunkenness –*

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Philippians 3:17–20 (NKJV)*

3. *Everything definitely includes our work -*

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV)

A. *Practicing God’s presence, meaning working as watched by God, human presence should not matter –*

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

- *Paul’s Presence is one thing, people do not want to sin in front of the preacher...*
- *But God is omnipresent, always present –*

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are *there*. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. Psalm 139:7–10 (NKJV)

He is watching what we do or do not do! Let us not sin in front of God, let us please Him!

B. *Doing quality work, even if economic profit is LESS –*

Ever noticed how older things worked better, and lasted longer, today FAIL dates are often built into products, why? Because you will have to buy a new one and the seller will make more money! Deceptive sizes... God sees and judges such things!

³⁵ ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. ³⁶ You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:35–36 (NKJV)

At the top of the Washington Monument, 550 feet up, in 5-inch letters are two words in Latin “Laus Deo” meaning “Praise be to God.” No one but God can see these letters, but the builders wanted God to notice.

4. *Everything can also include our recreation and hobbies –*

Tuesday, January 16th was Shane Russel’s 40th birthday, about 30 years ago he was ten and was interested in my sports cards ... He gives me credit for leading him to Christ, because of the time I spent with him, his interest was my cards, but I talked to him about Jesus Christ.

A. *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD means we can be CREATIVE in how we speak about and share God’s Worth & the Gospel –*

Songs, Poems, Books, Speeches, Dinners & Suppers, Breakfast, Gifts, Cards, Visits, Prayers, Praises, Plays, Skits, Talent Shows, Gardens, Gates, Foundations, buildings, clothing, teaching / raising children, talking (about God!) when walking or running... –

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:10–14 (NKJV)

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV)

B. *Advertising ...*

C. *What is your own idea(s) about glorifying God?*

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