

Are You Reclining, Whining, or Shining?

It seems to me that there are three kinds of church members. Let's briefly examine each and, as we do so, please honestly examine your part in the church and see which you are:

* There are those who recline. They just sit back and watch everything going on around them. They are never more involved than just "warming the pew" from time to time. God wants us involved with the church because, "He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer" (Pro. 18:9).

* There are those who whine. Sadly, other church members may be active, but they are involved with other members' business. They seem to spend the majority of their time and resources complaining. God wants us to focus on harmony and make sure we "do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned" (Jas. 5:9).

* There are those who shine. Gladly, there are church members who possess a great attitude and are working heartily for the Lord. They are busy doing the Lord's will and singing along the way. They are shimmering example of faithfulness and fruitfulness. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Paul had instructions concerning all of these in Phil. 2:14-15, "Do all things (that's the opposite of reclining) without complaining or disputing (that's the opposite of whining), that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world (that's being a shining example)."

So, Christian, are you reclining, whining, or shining?

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Edifier

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October 2, 2016



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Will Vann, Preacher

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Acceptable And Unacceptable Worship

God has shown, in the Bible, His approval with those who follow His will and His displeasure and wrath with those who refuse to worship Him the way He has directed. God has always been clear about how he is to be worshipped, but man has not listened.

An example of acceptable and unacceptable worship in the Old Testament is that of Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel both worshipped God. Abel did as God directed, but Cain tried to worship God the way he saw fit. We read in Genesis 4:3-5, "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering."

Why did the Lord have respect for Abel's offering and why did He reject Cain's offering? Hebrews 11:4 tells us, "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." Notice Abel offered his sacrifice "by faith" but Cain did not. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So faith comes by the word of God. Abel offered his sacrifice by faith or according to the word of God. If we worship God by faith, we worship as the word of God directs.

Abel offered the firstborn of his flock "by faith" and it was accepted because his worship was according to the instructions of God. But Cain chose to ignore God's instructions and sacrificed an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Cain chose to sacrifice to God the way he saw fit. Cain did not offer his sacrifice according to God's instructions, so God rejected his sacrifice and worship, since it was not "by faith".

From this example we see our worship must be "by faith", that is "by the word of God." We read in Romans 14:23, "For whatever is not from faith is sin." If our worship is not "by faith", that is it is not "by the word of God", then it "is sin". It will also be rejected just like Cain's. It is a very serious matter if God rejects our worship. If He does we are going to be lost. Many people accept from the Bible what they like and reject what they don't like. They also add other things that they like. This is not Christianity but religious anarchy. We do not have the right to "believe as we please." We must humbly submit to all that Jesus says. Anything taught or practiced by man in the field of religion which does not come from the Bible is false doctrine.

One cannot obey God without doing what God says to do, when God says to do it, how God says to do it and for the reason God says to do it. If what we do in worship is not according to the word of God, then it is vain and useless and will cause us to be eternally lost.

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett (FV) Doug Pruitt

(O) Keith Stifflemire (A) Jeffrey Burks

1st prayer Vernon Houts 2nd prayer Jack Wall

Announcements: Calvin Burks Singing: Judd Wall

Prayer List: Naomi Wall , Mildred Lovell , Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones, Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

Dates to Remember

October 2nd

Mission Fund

October 10th

Columbus Day

October 17th

National Boss Day

October 30th

Noon Fellowship



To

Judd Wall October 10th

Kyle Stifflemire October 21st

Mike Mallett October 21st

Ruby Jones October 24th

October 2

There will be a Men's Business Meeting at 1:00 pm on October 2, we encourage all men to attend.

STILL STANDING!

Despised and torn to pieces,
By infidels decried,
The thunderbolts of hatred,
The haughty cynic's pride
All these have railed against it,
In this and other lands;
Yet dynasties have fallen,
And still the Bible stands!

Author Unknown