

# TEACHING AS WORSHIP

Acts 2:42

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. In discussing matter of worship we will talk about singing; Lord's supper; giving and prayer – two are included in Acts 2:42. There is another action engaged in by early disciples I want to begin with this morning.
- B. Early disciples continued in apostles "doctrine" (teaching) Not many would object to prayer classified as worship because it is directed to God through Jesus, thereby honoring God and His Son.
- C. However, teaching is worship also and is just as important in our assembly as any other act of worship.
- D. Yet people say, "Oh, well, its just Bible study." As if attending Bible study is of less importance than other items of worship.
- E. Note the importance of teaching as worship to God and reasons for it's importance.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. EXAMPLE FROM OLD TESTAMENT MEETING TO CONSIDER GOD'S WORD Neh.8:1-8

- A. Examine attitudes and actions in Neh.8:1-8 in this meeting to read God's word
  - 1. V.1 they gathered together as "one man", there was a unified purpose of all the people
  - 2. V.3 the ears of ALL the people were ATTENTIVE unto the book of the law. They "paid attention"
  - 3. V.5 when the book was opened "all the people stood up". This indicates a reverence for the book
  - 4. V.6 they agreed God is Lord, a great God, they said "amen, amen."
  - 5. V.6 actions demonstrated awe and Reverence for God's word. they bowed heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground
- B. All through history when God has spoken to man, man has shown his reverence and awe of God's word
  - 1. Spoken to us today through his Son Heb.1:1,2
  - 2. The Scriptures we read from are divinely inspired 2Tim 3:16,17 and are the same as if God was speaking directly to us
- C. When we exhibit this reverence for God's word we are indeed worshipping him
- D. When we teach for doctrines the commandments of men our worship is vain. Matt.15:9

### II. EXAMPLE FROM NEW TESTAMENT MEETING TO CONSIDER GOD'S WORD Acts 15:4-29

- A. Met when doctrinal practices questioned Acts 15:4-28
  - 1. The doctrine was given an audience 15:5
  - 2. Apostles and elders considered the matter 15:6
  - 3. Note Peter's appeal to God's plan 15:7-11
  - 4. Paul and Barnabas cite precedence approved by Holy Spirit 15:12
  - 5. James appeals to the prophets 15:15-18
  - 6. All sanctioned by the Holy Spirit 15:28
- B. Attitude of multitude at this "Bible study". They all kept silence and gave audience - they paid attention to what was being said

### III. TEACHING GOD'S WORD (TRUTH) SHOWS REVERENCE FOR GOD (WORSHIP) IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD LEADS TO APOSTASY

- A. Israel apostatized as a result of one of two things
  - 1. Did not know God's law Hos.4:6 (reason Jud.2:10)
  - 2. Had no respect for God's law Jer.36:23,24
- B. Lord's church (spiritual Israel) falls from same causes
  - 1. Every apostasy has resulted from ignorance of or a lack of respect for God's law 2Tim.4:1-4
  - 2. In most cases it is a combination of both
    - a. false prophets will come 2Pet.2:1-3
    - b. only those taught will stand 1Cor.11:19
- C. There is now a great dearth of knowledge of God's word In the Lord's church
  - 1. Take pride in nice Bibles, but don't know them
  - 2. Listen, but do we receive and search Acts 17:11
- D. God expects, demands, requires Bible knowledge Acts 17:30
  - 1. Purpose of revelation 1Cor.2:12; Jhn.7:17
  - 2. Continued growing, requires study Heb.5:12-14
  - 3. Note the contrast in attitude of righteous man and ungodly, toward the word Psa.1:1-6
  - 4. Something is wrong with our attitude toward God's word when we go for days and weeks without opening our Bible either at home or in assembly

## CONCLUSION:

- A. In school we cram for examinations to make sure we are prepared to pass the test over the material presented
- B. Eternal destiny determined by how well we learn and apply God's word to our lives. It will judge us Jhn.12:48
- C. Surely this means that we ought to reverence God by spending time in reverent contemplation of His word
- D. How interested are you in studying and discussing God's word your attendance at Bible study periods says something about your interest.