

TRAIN YOURSELF TO RIGHT WORSHIP

“Train yourself to worship. Physical training is of limited use, but worship is useful in all respects, because it contains promises, both for this life and for the life to come.”

(1 Timothy 4: 7b-8)

As Christians, many of us have been attending religious services and cell groups week after week. These worship and community activities may have been carried out so routinely that many don't think about why we still worship, what we experience in worship, and whether our worship is pleasing to God, whether we still experience blessings in worship, and especially whether our worship is holy and perfect before God. Worship can be an opportunity to meet with brothers and sisters in faith, to praise and worship God together, to listen to the Word of God that can strengthen faith, etc. Without a clear and true purpose in worship, it is not surprising that many people feel dissatisfied with the worship they exercise. At the end of this age many Christians can no longer accept sound doctrine, but they only want to gather preachers according to their will to satisfy their eagerness (2 Timothy 4: 3). True worship according to Romans 12: 1 is to offer the body as a living, holy and pleasing offering to God. Actually we need to recall the reasons why we worship and what actually happens in worship. For that we need to return to the purpose of God who calls us to worship. And God pleases those who fear Him and who hope for His loyal love (Psalm 147: 11). Therefore true worship should be centered on God, not on humans. The worship we live must fulfill His will, not according to the wishes of the world or humans. And God always looks for true worshipers who worship the Father in spirit and truth (John 4:23). This means we need to live our worship with all our hearts in the commitment of holiness and perfection that God does in our lives through His grace, which also means we have to do it with all our hearts, all our souls, all our strength, and with all our mind for God (Luke 10:27). And our worship must be centered on God's Word and sanctified in the truth of His Word (John 17:17). If not, our worship will be in vain. In the Gospel of Matthew the Lord Jesus said as what the prophet Isaiah had prophesied, "This nation glorifies Me with its lips, even though its heart is far from Me. It is useless to worship Me, while the teachings they teach are the commands of men "(Matthew 15: 7-9). And Paul also described the condition of most people at the end of this age, "who externally carried out their worship, but in essence they denied their power" (2 Timothy 3: 5 a). Improper worship is worship performed by people whose hearts are far from God and by people who perform worship only outwardly. The guiding verse for this reflection is taken from 1 Timothy 4: 7b-8 inviting us to train ourselves to worship. True worship is useful in every way because it contains promises both for this life and for the life to come. Even in verse 9 it says, "these words are true and deserve full acceptance". In Hebrews 10: 19-25 are invitations that are practical responses that focus on true worship, namely: (1) "Let us face God with a sincere heart and firm faith ..." (verse 22); (2) "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hopes ..." (verse 23); and (3) "Let us pay attention to one another so that we encourage one another in love and in good works" (verse 24) and "Let us exhort one another and be more active in doing (verse 25) worship before the approaching day of the Lord. Let's continue to train ourselves to worship in the church where we are planted and pastored. Jesus bless you!

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