

Worship

The Individual and Worship

It is a duty of all to worship God (Psalm 67³). This is the end of our being and a delight to the child of God. Secret worship (performed by the believer alone) should comprise at minimum the reading of Scripture and prayer. There are some excellent aids to the reading of the Bible (Bible Notes available). There are also daily reading plans so that the whole of the Bible might be read in a specified time (e.g. Robert Murray McCheyne's - Banner of Truth). During our brief lives we ought to endeavour to read through the Bible as often as we can. It is the Word of the Living God. By it we live (Luke 4⁴). It is more precious than "fine gold" (Psalm 119¹²⁷), "sweeter than honey" (v¹⁰³), "a lamp unto" our feet and "light unto" our path (v¹⁰⁵). It should be our "meditation all the day" (v⁹⁷). We seek God in His Word.

We should also pray daily, indeed "without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5¹⁷). By prayer we praise God, thank Him, confess our sins and present our petitions. We should seek to do so free from distractions (Matthew 6⁶). The "Lord's Prayer" gives us a pattern for prayer (Matthew 6⁹⁻¹³). The way we fulfil this duty reveals something of our spiritual state. How easy it is to leave off prayer. If we are too busy to pray we are too busy.

We would recommend the habit of beginning the day with reading the Word of God and prayer. We should seek God's face first and hear His voice first. Who knows what lies in store for us during the day. In this way also we can, during the day, recall what we have read, thus meditating on Scripture. Prayer should attend us through the day. We can pray wherever we are. Our duties can be performed in the spirit of prayer.

At the end of the day we ought to repeat this duty. How better to retire at night than by reading Scripture and prayer. In prayer we can thank God for the day and especially examine ourselves as to how we have spent our time.

Family Worship

Family worship has been much neglected in our present day. We know that there are many pressures that make family worship difficult. We believe however, that it is an important duty (Deut. 6⁷, Joshua 24¹⁵). The head of the home is especially responsible for the organisation of family worship. Family worship should include at minimum the reading of Scripture and prayer. We should also seek to teach the basic elements of the Christian Faith. One of the ways that we can do this is through the use of Catechisms. There are a number that might be used including C.H. Spurgeon's Catechism and the Westminster Shorter Catechism (Presbyterian). Parents need sensitivity here to the understanding of their children. It is also good to sing as a family either a hymn or psalm.

The Corporate Worship of the Church

The Lord's Day is set apart for Divine Worship. On it we gather together as the people of God to offer Him our praise. Under normal circumstances we gather on the Lord's Day

morning and evening. Our worship includes the following: prayer (Acts 2⁴²), the reading of Scripture (Col. 4¹⁶), the preaching of the Word of God (2 Tim. 4²), singing praises (Col. 3¹⁶), and the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2^{41,42}).

Preparation

Our preparation for the Lord's Day ought to begin the night before. We ought not to be unduly late to bed on Saturday night, to ensure that we are at our best in the morning. Before we set off for the services we ask God's blessing upon all that will take place. We would not want to miss a service of worship unless absolutely necessary. In worship we are dealing especially with the glory of God and the good of our own souls.

We should also try to arrive at the church building in good time for the services so that we might compose ourselves. We are coming to meet with the living God. Arriving in time we are able to prepare for worship by prayer, reading Scripture or reading through one or more of the hymns that will be sung. We should seek to refrain from undue chatter as this detracts from our preparation. Worship requires all of our being.

A crèche is provided for young children. We do encourage older children to sit through the message. We would also seek to keep the movements of children during the service to a minimum (i.e. - use of the toilet and kitchen etc.).