

PRINCIPLES RELATIVE TO WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

- I. Worship to God is foremost in the lives of Christians. Matt. 4:10
 - A;. This is the first recorded instance of JESUS using the word “worship.”
 1. He is responding to Satan’s temptation to worship him (Satan). v.8
 2. The 1st 3 words of Christ’s response (“it is written”) are repeated twice more in this chapter.
 - B. This text of Matt. 4:10 contains 3 fundamental principles relative to all our worship—especially to the possible use of instrumental music accompanying our singing.
- II. Let’s explore these 3 principles, and make a brief application to the use of instrumental music in worship to God.

I. Let’s explore the 1st principle--“IT IS WRITTEN”. (v. 10)

- A. Jesus refused to worship *improperly* because of something “written.”
 1. The 2 previous references in this chapter to something “written” are quotes from the book of Deuteronomy, which contains the Deuteronomic Code of Obedience and Disobedience. Deut. 28:1, 15
 - a. The 1st reference is from Deut. 8:3. cf Matt. 4:3-4
 - b. The 2nd reference is from Deut. 6:16; cf Matt. 4:5-7
 - c. Now, the 3rd reference is from Deut. 6:13 and 10:20 (2 passages)
 2. Jesus KNEW that the particulars of His worship had to be authorized by the unchangeable word that GOD had given.
 - a. Now, that word was STILL in force for Jesus, as “it IS wr it ten” is from a perfect tense verb, meaning “it has BEEN written and REMAINS written.”
 - b. The word was given 1500 years before to the Israelites, and was STILL applicable—even to Jesus the Son of God.
 - c. It was PRIOR to the commands to BE given, and as a principle, it was NOT part of the law to be given that eventually was replaced by the new covenant.
 - d. At any rate if it was good with reference to the OLD law, it is also good with reference to the NEW law.
- B. Now, let’s apply this principle to instrumental music in worship today.
 1. This particulars of our worship (including the music) MUST be governed by what “is written.” cf 1 Cor. 4:6 (ASV, NKJV)
 - a. The particulars of OT worship ended when the Law itself came to an end of the death of Jesus. Col. 2:14
 - b. For some reason, every reference in the NT for music in the church has to do with, or describes “singing”, without the use of instruments. (Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9 (2 Sam. 22:50; Psa. 18:49); 1 Cor. 14:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13).
 2. The WORD of Christ contains His “NAME” or authority. Col. 3:16-17; John 12:48

II. Now let’s explore the 2nd principle, “THOU SHALT WORSHIP”. v. 10

- A. The word Jesus used here is from the Greek word *proskuneo*, which is a combination of *pros* (meaning “toward”) and *kuneo* (meaning “to kiss;” symbolically meaning “to blow a reverent kiss” to GOD).
 1. This is the main word used in the Septuagint translation of the OT when translating the Hebrew term “to bow”, into the Greek language.
 2. It is the MAIN word used to describe New Testament worship. Cf John 4:19-24
- B. Now let’s apply these words of Jesus to “instrumental music” today.
 1. Worship is what we DO toward a higher Being, who has told us WHAT pleases Him —singing. Heb. 13:15-16
 2. In Rom. 15:1, Paul said we should NOT seek to please ourselves because “we like” something, but to please God, our true Audience, and He has told us what He DOES like, and He did NOT mention that He likes instrumental music in worship.

III. Now let's explore the 3rd principle, "THE LORD THY GOD." v. 10

- A. GOD (not Satan) is the true object of worship. Gen. 4:3-6; Heb. 11:4; John 4:24; Rev. 22:9
 - 1. Men are not true objects of worship.
 - 2. Idols are not proper objects.
 - 3. Angels are not suitable objects of worship.
 - 4. The Devil is certainly not a fit object of worship.
- B. Now, let's apply this principle to "instrumental music in worship today."
 - 1. Since GOD is the only true object of our worship, we must offer the things HE accepts. 1 Pet. 2:5
 - 2. ALL our worship is something we do to please HIM, that he has TOLD us in the written word to do.
 - a. Our preaching, giving, praying, communing AND our singing—are ALL done with a view to pleasing and glorifying God.
 - b. We CAN and enjoy worship, but it is primarily in doing **what** God asks of us, and *only then* do our souls commune with God.

CONCLUSION

- I. In review, we see that there are 3 basic principles relative to worship: IT IS WRITTEN (God's word); THOU SHALT WORSHIP (the offering of worship itself), And THE LORD THY GOD, the proper object of the worship itself.
 - A. The last part of the text of worship concludes by reminding us that there is something that goes **with** worship, and that is "service": "And him only shalt thou serve."
 - B. To worship God alone is not enough: We need to serve the object of worship.
- II. To properly worship and serve, we need to be Christians, which is accomplished through confessing the faith in Christ that leads us to repent of our sins and complete our obedience by immersion into Christ.

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