

Training
Junior High Youth
For Service to God
#2 (Boys)



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Lesson One

"What is Worship?"

Let's suppose that you have a furnace that will not heat your house properly. You complain daily, but the furnace does not do any better. In desperation you go and stand before the burner and shout: *"You will not get one more piece of coal until you start putting out more heat."* Do you suppose that such action will cause the burner to put out more heat? It could be that the same thing is true concerning the Christian and worship. He goes to the assembly and comes away feeling cold and unsatisfied. He complains and even decides that he will not go anymore until he can get something out of worship. Is it possible that the problem is within him and not necessarily the worship assembly?

A survey was taken among a certain religious group. They found that 65% of their dropouts left because the people felt the worship service was not meaningful. What were those people looking for in their worship assembly? Were they desiring to be entertained like when sitting before a television? Just why do people leave worship assemblies and not feel uplifted or that it was good to have been there? In order to arrive at some kind of an answer, we must first see what true worship is all about.

DEFINING WORSHIP

The word "worship" occurs about 60 times in the King James Version of the New Testament. It is an Anglo-Saxon word that indicates "worth-ship." It is a way of expressing to God how much we value Him in our lives. It is an effort to show homage, reverence, honor, and respect to the God of creation. A worship assembly should be gathered together to pay honor and devotion to the God who has redeemed us. If God has given specific instructions as to the activities we are to engage in to show our respect for Him; then, we show our reverence for Him by doing what He tells us. Obedience to God is critical in worship! **Nadab** and **Abihu** were priest of God in the Old Testament. They offered strange fire unto God which God had not prescribed. God took their lives on the spot! Why? Did they not worship God? No! They dethroned God and worshiped themselves! (Lev. 10). **Saul**, the first King over Israel, was told to utterly destroy the Amalekites, to leave no one alive, and not to bring back any bounty or spoils of war (1 Sam. 15:1-3). They disobeyed God and brought back the best of the spoils—saying, they wanted to offer them to the Lord at Gilgal (1 Sam. 15:21). Saul and the people were strongly rebuked for their disobedience and God would not accept their worship. Why? They rejected the Word of the Lord! (1 Sam. 15:22-23). They did not respect God, but looked to their own hearts for direction. God called their actions rebellion and insubordination—so, any efforts at worship would

be rejected by God! When men respect God, they listen to God. When they do not respect God, they turn a deaf ear to His Word.

THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP

One of the main struggles that God had with the Israelite people under the Old Covenant arrangement was **IDOLATRY!** At times, they refused (as the nations around them) to give recognition to the True and Living God of Heaven and turned to idols that were so far inferior to Him. Idolatry is a dethroning of the True God and placing an inferior thing in His place (Exo. 20:1-6). Idolatry also invents its own approach to their gods! This led to all kinds of sinful, selfish, indulgent activities (Exo. 32:1-10; Rom. 1:18-32).

Thus, the real test of true worship to God rest upon our giving to Him proper recognition as to who He is and to be obedient to Him—showing our reverence for Him. Worship is indicating that we recognize who the Creator is and who the creature is (Rom. 9:20! Man's greatest sin is his pride; which is a failure to give proper recognition to the God of Heaven. Man, as well as Satan, wants to usurp the person of and the place of the True God of Heaven (1 Tim. 3:6; James 4:6; Jude 6; 2 Thess. 2:3-4)! ***"This people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me."*** (Matt. 15:8). True worship must come from a heart that is awake and open to God and that expresses reverence, awe, respect, adoration, gratitude, thanksgiving, and love! False or vain worship is shown by people who seek their own will and not God's will. It is shown by a heart that is prideful, self-centered, and self-satisfied as Jesus pointed out (Luke 18:9-14). It is also shown by a heart that lacks shame, sorrow, or mourning for sin in his life (Matt. 5:3-7).

Who is this God that we desire to worship? (Isaiah 6:1-8). He is a Being of:

1. Overwhelming majesty, holiness, sinlessness, and perfection.
2. He is all-powerful—nothing is too great for him to accomplish.
3. He is all-knowing—all is laid open before Him.
4. He is everywhere-presence—there is nowhere we can go that God is not there.
5. He is just and righteous—He does not act unfairly or incorrectly.
6. He is faithful—He never breaks a promise or goes back on His word.
7. He has great compassion, mercy, and love for His creatures. He has shown this by the giving of the greatest of gifts to redeem us back to himself.

Without some knowledge and recognition of these things, true worship cannot take place! Millions around the world go to a place of worship, but does true worship take place in honor of the True God of Heaven? Just to go to an assembly of people and go through some activities together does not automatically guarantee acceptable worship to God!

Don't misunderstand...the first two factors are important, but they alone do not assure us that we have worshiped the True God of Heaven. In later lessons, we will look closer at the importance of faithfully attending the assemblies and being obedient to God by engaging in the activities of worship that He has prescribed.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART

It is important that we realize that God knows our hearts (Ps. 44:21; Acts 1:24). We cannot deceive Him or fool Him. He knows if we are sincere in our worship or insincere. God wants our heart, but a sincere heart (Eph. 6:24; Josh. 24:14; 1 Cor. 5:8). It is with this outlook that God desires us to approach Him in worship. See the Scriptures below:

Jer. 24:7—God wants the whole heart!

Deut. 4:29—We are to seek Him with all of our heart!

1 Sam. 12:24—We are to serve Him in truth with all our heart!

1 Pet. 3:15—We are to sanctify the Lord God in our heart!

Ps. 51:17—A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

The heart of man must be turned to God before he can properly worship the true God of Heaven.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

When we leave the Assembly of God's people, how can we truly know that we have "worshiped" the God of Heaven? Was our heart truly in the things that we did? Did we show reverence, respect, and honor to God—which He rightfully deserves? Or did we try to worship God with a "*polluted heart*" (Ezek. 20:16); a "*Lifted up heart*" (Ezek. 28:17); or with a "*divided heart.*" (Hosea 10:2). Are we aware when our heart is not in our worship? If we go away from the assembly and are not built up or edified, **who is responsible?**

Jesus gave recognition to two things about our worship to God that are critical: "*In spirit and in truth.*" (John 4:24). To worship God in spirit has reference to the heart or mind of man that must be involved. This is what our discussion has been about in this lesson. The third lesson will deal with the concept of worship in truth. We must worship God with both concepts—it is not an either/or matter—it is a both matter! When people do not participate, or they indicate an indifference or unconcern about worship, or if their actions show disrespect...does worship take place for them? Do we purposely attend the assemblies of God's people to truly worship God? Can we truthfully say that it was "good" to come together with brethren to worship the True God of Heaven?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Of what value is our complaining about the worship assembly?

2. What is meant by the expression: "The worship service was not meaningful?"

3. How is the word "worship" to be defined?

4. What two examples illustrate the wrong attitude towards God?

5. What role does obedience play in worship?

6. How does idolatry "dethrone" God?

7. Why was God so concerned about Israel not turning to idolatry?

8. Is it possible for people to go through activities of worship and not worship?

9. What are some worshipful attributes of God?

10. Why does God want our "whole heart?"

Lesson Two

"Scripture Reading"

Leadership in Worship should not be taken lightly. What we say or do can have an effect for good or bad. It is not only important to know what true worship is, but that we help to lead people in that worship to God. But how can you lead people in worship if you do not understand what worship is? The purpose of this series of lessons is to stress the need of preparing ourselves for future use in the church—and worship will be one of the main areas that young people will first began to be used. So, please help us to make these lessons meaningful.

Scripture Reading in Worship

Since all of us have access to the Bible in our homes, public reading of the Scripture has not been consider as vital as it once was. There is some reading done at the Lord's Table and the Preacher does some quoting or reading of the Scriptures during his sermon. Hopefully, God's people are reading the Bible for themselves in their homes or elsewhere.

Public reading among the Jews! When the Law was first given by Moses to the people, it was read publicly.

Exo. 24:7 _____

The Law would also be read during their feast days when so many of the people would be gathered together. This was probably their only access to the Old Testament.

Deut. 31:11-13 _____

Another important occasion for the reading of the Scriptures in public was when Judah came back from Babylonian captivity and rebuilt the Temple.

Neh. 8:1-3, 5 _____

Neh. 9:1-3 _____

Public reading among the early Christians! When inspired New Testament Letters would be sent to a group of Christians, it would be read publicly. Often, copies of the Letters would be made for general use.

Col. 3:16 _____

1 Thess. 5:27 _____

Rev. 1:3 _____

Public reading of Scripture was a necessity in the early churches—for this was basically their only means of learning. The exception to this would be the "inspired prophets and teachers" in the early churches that would provide the knowledge of the Will of God until it had been written down and completed! (1 Cor. 13:8-9). Most of the public reading in worship today is done by the one doing the preaching.

Is public reading of Scripture right to do? _____

Is such needed today? _____

The Seriousness of Reading of Scripture

We must remember that we are in a "worship assembly" with the intent or purpose of showing respect, honor, and praise to God and to encourage one another in our lives as Christians. This is not "just something to do!" If it is done, it should be done correctly so that it might accomplish the purpose for reading the Bible publicly in our assemblies.

"We need to realize that we are reading the very Word of God to our fellow human beings! Show respect for what God is saying!"

Practical Thoughts for the Reader

1. If you are asked to choose the Scriptures to be read, please:

- a) Pick an appropriate passage to read;
- b) Pick one of a reasonable length.

2. Things to be aware of when you read:

- a) Hold the Bible up before you.
- b) Face the audience—make eye contact.
- c) Announce clearly your reading.
- d) Give time for the audience to look up the passage.
- e) Read slowly so people can follow and understand.
- f) Speak clearly and loud enough to be easily heard by all.
- g) Put emphasis upon the proper words to help with

understanding.

3. Things to do ahead of time:

- a) Dress appropriately for the occasion—not sloppily.
- b) Read the passage over in order to get the thoughts.
- c) Read to see if you know all the words!

Concluding Thoughts

Public Reading of Scripture needs to be done with skill in order to get the most value from such. It takes training, insight, and the desire to do it right in order to be the most effective. For a person to stand before us and to read the Scriptures with feeling, insight, and respectfulness can be a great blessing!

It would be well for the teacher of this class to show how the reading should be done before the students are asked to read in the class. With this example before them, they will have a better idea of what to do and what not to do.

Public reading may be one of the easier things for young people to do as they participate in the worship assembly; but, it still should be done to the very best of one's ability. This series is all about "**training for service to God.**" We can be trained to do a good job if we are willing.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why should you, as a young person, want to participate in the worship assembly of the Church?

2. Why did the Jews have public reading of the Old Testament?

3. Why did the early Church have public reading of the Letters of the New Testament?

4. Can you see a value in the public reading of Scripture?

5. What constructive criticism can you offer in regards to the public reading of Scriptures?

6. What has been good about the public reading of Scripture in our assemblies?

7. Are you will to be trained (and train yourself) to do as good of a job as possible when you are ask to read publicly?

8. What are some good passages to practice on for public reading?
 - a) Ps. 23
 - b) 1 Cor. 13
 - c) Ps. 1
 - d) The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-13)
 - e) The story of the prodigal son (Lk. 15)

Lesson Three
"Leading Singing"

Have you noticed the blessing of singing? Such has been one of the great privileges God has given to mankind. Singing can be used to:

- a) Express joy, elation, or happiness; but, as well, sadness!
- b) Singing is involved in all areas of our lives—even our country.
- c) God has also chosen this as one of the avenues of our worship to Him.

Ps. 30:4 _____

1 Cor. 14:15 _____

It is also important for us to know that the Old Testament Psalms were written to be sung by Israel!

And....we can be blessed as a congregation when:

- 1. We recognize the importance of singing in worship to God;
- 2. We have song leaders who help us pour out our souls to God in song;
- 3. Leaders help to bring out the best in us in our adoration and praise to God.

Passages that deal with singing in the New Testament

Acts 16:25 _____

James 5:13 _____

Heb. 2:12 _____

Eph. 5:19 _____

Col. 3:16 _____

Rev. 5:9 _____

Rev. 14:3 _____

Rev. 15:3 _____

The Challenge of Leading Singing

Leading singing is not one of the easiest things to do in our public worship to God. The following things will give an indication of why it is a challenge:

1. It is important that the leader can "read notes!"
2. It is important to begin with the right "pitch!"
3. It is important to "beat the right timing!"
4. It is important to "choose the right songs for the occasion!"
5. It is important to have a voice for leading!

All of the above do require some training, some personal ability to sing, and the willingness to spend the time necessary to lead songs. We have such people in this congregation that can do this!

Practical Suggestions for Song Leaders

- 1. Go through a good training process in order to know how to lead singing well.**
- 2. Remember—you are the song "leader," not the congregation. You lead them; not they lead you!** (But, be thoughtful of them!!!).
- 3. Select appropriate songs to lead.**
 - a) What is the basis of your selection?
 - b) Is it your own personal agenda?
 - c) Is it an over-all concern for the church?
 - d) Is it to please certain people?
- 4. Select "scriptural" songs.**
 - a) Do not assume the song book is correct!
 - b) Do not use questionable songs.
- 5. Be more concerned about:**
 - a) Singing coming from the heart.
 - b) Helping the congregation to worship in song.
 - c) Pleasing God rather than men.
- 6. Avoid extreme positions about song leading.**
 - a) Extreme—No real concern for doing the job well.
 - b) Extreme—Everyone to be an expert in singing.
- 7. Some right things about leading:**
 - a) Get the right pitch for the song.
 - b) Start us all together and use good and correct hand signals.
 - d) Clearly announce numbers & name of songs.

8. Some things that detract from our worship in song:

- a) Song leader too sold on himself—puts on a show!
- b) Bad hand signals that are confusing.
- c) Song led too fast—not time to think of what we are singing.
- d) Inappropriate comments by the leader.

Concluding Thoughts

Singing is an important part of our worship to God. We need leaders who can do the job well so that we can fully benefit from this activity. God has directed us to worship Him—so there must be value in engaging in such activities!

The leader is leading us in worship! It is important that he understands what worship is and how it is to be done correctly. Our worship is to be in spirit and in truth! (Jn. 4:24).

If the teacher of this class cannot or does not have the ability to lead singing properly, it would be appropriate to ask one of the song leaders in the Church to visit the class and help with the training process. We are striving to "train young people for service to God!"

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is singing so desirable?

2. Why do you think God required singing to be a part of our worship to Him?

3. How do we teach and admonish one another in song?

4. What are the types of songs God wants us to sing?

5. Can everyone be a song leader?

6. Why do we not use women as song leaders in our worship?

7. Why do we need "grace in our hearts" in order to sing to the Lord?

8. How do we make melody in our hearts to the Lord?

9. What constructive criticism do you have to offer about our song leaders or our singing?

10. Can a person be a good song leader who does not read notes and cannot pitch the songs correctly?

Lesson Four

"Leading in Prayer"

Leading public prayer may appear easy; but as many will testify, it is not as easy as it might look! In the first place, if you don't pray to God daily yourself, how can you properly lead others publicly before the throne of God. Two factors are obvious:

- a) You won't know what to say;
- b) You will suffer from "stage fright" because of being up front.

One of the most challenging areas of the Christian life is to properly understand and make use of the privilege of prayer. Prayer is a struggle to understand correctly, but it is also a struggle with God as well. Leading public prayer is leading God's people in worship, honor, and praise to God; as well as, making our requests known unto God.

Some Scriptures about Prayer

We need to know what makes our prayers acceptable unto God, and especially as we lead the whole church in prayer.

Jas. 5:15 _____

Jas. 5:16-18 _____

Jas. 5:16 _____

1 Tim. 2:1-2 _____

1 Tim. 2:5 _____

1 Thess. 5:17 _____

1 Cor. 14:15-19 _____

Matt. 6:5-6 _____

Matt. 6:7 _____

Jas. 4:2-3 _____

Jas. 4:8-10 _____

**Practical Suggestions for Those Who
Lead in Prayer in the Assembly**

1. Remember that you are leading the Church in prayer to God....it is not just your prayer.
2. Try to avoid "trite" phrases that others use.
3. Remember that praying is not preaching!
 - a) The length of your prayer should be determined by several factors.
 - b) Don't make it too long in order to be heard for your much speaking.
 - c) Don't pray to be seen and heard of men.
 - d) Make your prayer fit the situation.
4. Recognize that there are different occasions for prayer in our assemblies.
 - a) A prayer that begins our worship probably should not be long, but short, straight to the point.
 - b) The main prayer should be longer and cover many areas about which we should pray as a group.
 - c) Prayers at the Lord's Table should probably be short and to the point of the occasion.
 - d) Prayers about the collection—the same as above.
 - e) Special prayers about a person or an event that we feel the need to pray about should be to the point!
 - f) Closing prayer....short, sweet, and thankful.
5. Be sure that our prayers are sincere, thoughtful, appropriate, and appealing to God instead of man.
 - a) Jesus' strongest condemnation of religious people was over their insincerity, hypocrisy, and making a show of their religious activities. (See Matt. 23).
 - b) Our greatest need for prayer to God is at least two-fold:
 - ◇ The need of forgiveness (1 Jn. 1:9).
 - ◇ The need for thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6).
 - c) Everything else is "extra-special privileges!"

Content of our Prayers

Jesus gave His disciples a basic outline that we can follow in our prayers:

1. Respect and Praise to God. (Matt. 6:9)
2. The desire that God's Will will be done on earth. (Matt. 6:10)

3. Requests for our daily needs. (Matt. 6:11)
4. Requests for our own forgiveness. (Matt. 6:12)
5. Requests to keep us from falling. (Matt. 6:13)
6. Praise to God. (Mat. 6:13)

We should also be concerned about the welfare of others (Phil. 2:4). But an important concept of prayer is to recognize that it is the privilege of the child of God; but we still have to go through our mediator (Jesus Christ) to get to the throne of God. (1 Tim. 2:5). Without Him, we can have no access!

Concluding Thoughts

Prayer is a great privilege that God has granted to us through Christ. We need to be trained in the concept of praying—in our own private prayers as well as in our public prayers. Prayer is something that we should grow in! We don't stop praying because we don't know how to do it correctly, but we get busy and learn how to pray as we should.

The teacher of this class should help the young men to make a mental outline of things to pray about from the above thoughts on Prayer. Let them see the few basic things that need to be involved as we pray publicly.

Each young man should be encouraged to lead a prayer with the group after some discussion on how to pray. At first, let it be short and to the point—about one thing in particular!

Questions for Discussion

1. Why should a Christian pray? Doesn't God know what we need?
2. Why should one be trained in how to pray correctly—doesn't it just come natural?
3. Why should we pray for others?
4. Does it hurt if someone hears me praying since Jesus told us to go into our closet and pray in secret?
5. Why do you think some people pray long prayers?
6. What does it mean to "Pray without ceasing?"
7. What is a primary reason why we ought to pray everyday?
8. If a person does not believe in Christ, does he have a right to pray to God?
9. Why does James say a person's prayers are not answer?
10. What must a person do before he can draw nigh to God, according to James?

Lesson Five

***"Training in Helping with
the Lord's Supper"***

Observing the Lord's Supper is at the heart of our worship to God. If Christ had not died, there would be no purpose for worship! We worship the God of Heaven because He sent His only Son to be sacrifice for us that we can have hope of Heaven some day. His resurrection from the dead gives us additional reason for worship—we have hope after death of an existence with God.

Why do we do what we do in worship? If God had said, ***"Worship me!"*** But gave no specific activities of worship; then, we could do whatever we wanted to and it would be acceptable. But God has specified the activities that He wants and we do them to please Him (***"His Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!"***). And yet.....all that we do is primarily for our own benefit! We are the ones that are blessed!

Terms used to Identify the Lord's Supper

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night of His betrayal while He and His disciples were together observing the Passover (Matt. 26:26-29). He used unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine to represent His body and His blood (Mark 14:22-25). We are to partake of this bread and fruit juice in memory of His death for us (1 Cor. 11:24-25). Partaking of these items is to be a time of self-evaluation (1 Cor. 11:28). Several different terms are used to identify this activity of worship.

1 Cor. 11:20 _____

1 Cor. 10:16 _____

1 Cor. 10:21 _____

Acts 2:42 _____

The expression, ***"breaking of bread,"*** is used in two ways in the New Testament:

1. An activity of worship in remembrance of the death of Christ.
(Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7)
2. A common meal at home (Acts 2:46; Acts 20:11).

The term, "sacrament," is not an appropriate term to be used in reference to the Lord's Supper. The above terms would all be appropriate.

**Various Activities in Connection with
the Lord's Supper**

1. A song will often be led before we partake of the Lord's Supper.

2. Several men will be asked to help serve:

- a) One to make comments about the Bread and have a prayer.
- b) One to make comments about the Fruit of the Vine and have a prayer.
- c) (At same time, one man will have comments about the giving and have a prayer).
- d) The other three men, along with the above three, will serve the Lord's Supper to the congregation and pass the contribution trays for the giving to be done.
- e) All of the above activities should be done with seriousness and thankfulness.

Abuse of the Lord's Supper

In 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 is given special instructions concerning the observing of the Lord's Supper. The Christians at Corinth were not doing things right and were rebuked for such. They had seemingly made a common meal out of the Lord's Supper. They were not waiting for others to arrive to eat with them. Paul indicated that they were partaking in an "unworthy manner!" They were not to make a common meal out of the Lord's Supper—but eat your meals separately. Those who do not take this matter seriously eat and drink damnation to their soul. It is important to realize that those who serve the Lord's Supper have a grave responsibility to take what they do seriously and not lightly.

Concluding Thoughts

Everything we do in worship to God needs to be done with our hearts in it and according to God's directions (Jn. 4:24). Even though the Church at Corinth had erred greatly concerning the Lord's Supper; yet, they were willing to be corrected and to do things right and unto the edifying of the body of Christ. We also must be willing to be corrected when it comes to serving or partaking of the Lord's Supper.

It might be well for the teacher of this class to position six of the students at a table and let them go through a "dress rehearsal." Another thing that might be worthwhile is to have the ones who make the comments and lead the prayer to write out what they would say and what they would pray.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some ways a server can detract from the Lord's Supper?

2. Why have a song before partaking of the Lord's Supper?

3. How long should comments be at the Lord's Table?

4. Who makes the decision of how long?

5. How can one partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner?

6. How appropriate are the comments at the Lord's Table?

7. Why is it so important to have an orderly service?

8. How do we know when to partake of the Lord's Supper?

9. How do we know when something is "edifying?"

10. What does it mean to "*Partake of the table of demons?*" (1 Cor. 10:21)

To Take Notes, if needed

Lesson Six
"Practical Application"

Most of us are aware of the process of learning—it is to come to know something and put it into practice! You cannot learn to do something unless you actually do it. It has to be worked at—not dreamed of! All who become able to do things have to follow a procedure:

1. Listen to know.
2. Observe those who know and are doing.
3. Begin practicing the doing.
4. Become a capable doer.

Jas. 1:22 _____

Matt. 7:21 _____

Phil. 4:9 _____

Jas. 1:25 _____

Making Assignments

The Teacher of the class is asked to make up an assignment sheet for each of the activities that have been discussed in these classes. You probably will have time for at least two young men to each of the five topics (see below):

- a) Scripture Reading _____
- b) Leading Songs _____
- c) Leading Prayer _____
- d) Prayers at Table _____
- e) Comments at Table _____

If they feel uncomfortable praying out loud, you may want them to write their prayers out. It is important to get all of the boys in the class to try at least one thing.

How to be a Great Servant

1. Read your Bible daily—it is good food for the soul.
Matt. 4:4 _____

2. Forgive those who have wronged you.
Lk. 17:1-4 _____

3. In every situation love your enemies. This is a challenge!
Matt. 5:43-44 _____

4. Go the second mile—do more than is required.
Matt. 5:41 _____
5. Be an example of a believer in every situation of life.
1 Tim. 4:12 _____

6. Stand firm when it isn't popular to do so.
1 Cor. 15:58 _____

7. Share the Good News with the people you know.
Mk. 16:15-16 _____

8. Find someone you can serve.
Jas. 1:27 _____
9. Control your temper when it flares up.
1 Pet. 1:5-6 _____
10. Live faithfully unto death.
Rev. 2:10 _____

Evaluation Sheet for Participants

Poor Fair Good

1. Attitude of the participant.....
2. Appropriateness of his thoughts.....
3. He was "cool, calm, and collected".....
4. Shows leadership ability.....
5. How well he communicated his thoughts.....
6. How well did he handle himself.....
7. He showed an understanding of worship.....
8. How well did he encourage participation.....
9. Rate his sincerity.....
10. Overall rating.....

(Teacher)

Note—How would you evaluate the following thoughts?

**"Ten Commandments"
for Improving the Worship Services!**

- 1. Make Sunday Worship a priority.** It is the most important commitment of the week.
- 2. Don't bring God left-overs.** God has always demanded the "first fruits." He cannot be satisfied with scraps.
- 3. Prepare your mind.** Discipline begins in the mind. So does disciple-ship. Train your mind to concentrate on the things of the Spirit.
- 4. Be on Time (or ahead of time).** Rushing in late makes it difficult for you to settle into meditation and disturbs other worshippers.
- 5. Bring your Bible.** Coming to worship without your Bible is like going out to drive your car without the keys.
- 6. Open your mouth and sing.** Singing is not an option. It is a command. Those who violate this command are just as guilty as if they had neglected the assembly in the first place.
- 7. Sit close to the front.** Experience has shown that some marginal church members would rather switch congregations than switch pews. Research indicates that the level of emotion and mental participation decreases as one moves closer to the back.
- 8. Before and after the service—be friendly.** Worship is enhanced when it is done as a family. Family members should know and love each other.
- 9. Listen carefully to the sermon.** Taking notes may help. Follow along in your Bible. Take the message seriously. It will help you. It will encourage the speaker. It will show non-Christians that we are serious.
- 10. Make your worship God-centered, not man-centered.** Worship is primarily a giving situation. Those who say, "I don't get much out of worship" are wrongly focused. It is in the giving of ourselves that we get. No giving—no getting!

--By Tom Pauley
Georgetown, TX

