

Presenting the Study Sheet:

“Do You Worship God Acceptably?”

The study sheet “Do You Worship God Acceptably?” can be studied after the “Church” study sheet (Lesson 5) or the “Organization” study sheet (Lesson 6). The teacher should *not* use this as a beginning study sheet.

Purpose

The purpose of the “Worship” sheet is to discuss the worship that Jesus, the head of the church, desires His church to use.

Lesson in Brief

This study sheet shows that all the truth God requires man to obey has been given by Jesus through the Holy Spirit to the New Testament apostles and prophets, and has been recorded in the New Testament. This is the truth that must be followed in worshiping God. The commandments and traditions of men are to be refused, and only the truth that has come through Jesus is to be followed in the worship of God.

Introduction

[In preparing the student for this lesson the teacher might introduce the lesson by discussing worship, the purpose of worship, and who is to be respected as superior in worship.]

God is the center of worship. Man is not the center of worship. Worship should be our effort to respect, honor, praise, and adore God, our creator. Worship should emanate from a consideration of what God has done in our lives as we look back over our daily walk with God. As we consider what God has done, our hearts should look up to God in thanksgiving and praise.

We should be sure that what we are doing in worship will show our submission to Him and respect for Him. It is reported that George Washington wrote a directive to his military leaders to encourage them to reprimand the men for vulgar speech. His reason was that the tongues that call on God to seek

His help should not be used to dishonor Him. Why should they expect God to bless their cause if they showed such disrespect to Him by using language that would be reprehensible to Him. In like manner our efforts to worship God should not be marred by efforts to use in worship what has not been requested by God.

I. What God Desires

1. Has God chosen what is to be used in worship? What does God desire man to use in worship of Him? [Read 1 Pet. 2:5.] To *whom* must worship be acceptable? [Fill in the blank with “God.”] The question is not whether or not what is used in worship is acceptable to men, for man is not the center of worship. God, not man, is the one we should seek to please when we worship. We are able to arrange some very impressive productions so far as man is concerned, but that should not be the consideration. Our effort in worship should be to please God.

2. What did Jesus say concerning worship? With the passing of the Old Testament worship, how are followers of Jesus to worship? [Read John 4:23, 24.] *What* are Christians to include in worship? [Fill in the blanks with “spirit” and “truth.”]

By “spirit” Jesus must have meant that the internal part of man must be involved in worship. It is not enough to go through the form and not to be spiritually involved. One can sing the song “My Jesus, I Love Thee,” and be thinking about his job, recreation, etc., and not be expressing in his heart, “My Jesus, I Love Thee,” and for this reason he would not be worshiping. His worship would not be in spirit.

Not only must worship be in *spirit*, but it must also be in *truth*. “Spirit” is the substance and “truth” is the form. Someone might ask for a drink of water, implying water in a container. A person with a garden hose might shoot a stream of water toward the person and say, “Here comes your drink of water!” The *substance* would be present, but the *form* would be wrong. In the same way one can be reaching up

to God in worship, but fail to be using in form what pleases God.

3. Has God revealed the truth? If He has revealed the truth, where can it be found? [Read John 1:17.] Through *whom* has God revealed the truth? [Fill in the blank with "Jesus Christ."] The truth is only in Jesus (Eph. 4:21). The truth is not found in the law, i.e., what Moses brought. The law was only a shadow (Heb. 10:1). Now that the reality has come, we are no longer under the shadow, the law (Gal. 3:24, 25; Eph. 2:14, 15; Heb. 7:18, 19). Those things that were used in worship by those under the Old Testament are not to be used by Christians unless they are contained in the truth that came through Jesus Christ.

4. How much truth did Jesus reveal? [Read John 16:13.] *How much* truth did the apostles receive through the Holy Spirit? [Fill in the blank with "all."] The apostles were given all the truth that Jesus is going to reveal to man. If what is being practiced is not taught by the apostles, it is not a part of the truth that came through Jesus Christ.

[*On the back* at the top write "Jesus," then "Holy Spirit," and then "Apostles and Prophets." Underneath draw a circle, and in it write "All Truth." See page 7.] Jesus, the head of the church, has revealed all truth to the New Testament apostles and prophets. If they taught that a practice is to be used, it is from Jesus and is bound by Jesus (Matt. 18:18).

5. Jesus gave instruction to the apostles just before He went back to heaven. He told them to make disciples of all the people of all nations and baptize them, after which they were to teach them to observe the things He had taught them. They were to teach the new Christians to observe the teachings who had commanded? [Read Matt. 28:20.] *Who* commanded the things they were to teach? [Fill in the blank with "Jesus."]

This instruction by Jesus was inclusive and exclusive. To teach *less* than Jesus had taught would not be enough, and to teach *more* than Jesus had taught would not be teaching them to observe what Jesus taught. It would be teaching them to observe what someone else, other than Jesus, had taught. If they obeyed Jesus, they would teach the followers to observe all, no more and no less than, Jesus had taught them.

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that worship that is acceptable to God is worship that is in spirit and in truth. All the truth has been given by Jesus through the apostles and prophets. The followers of Jesus are to use in wor-

ship the truth that has been taught by these apostles and prophets.

II. What God Rejects

Does God accept everything that man may include in worship? Does man have the right to use whatever he desires in worship?

1. What about things man has commanded that God has not commanded? Will God accept worship that is based on the commandments of men and not on the commandments of God? [Read Mark 7:7.] Does God *value* worship based on man's commandments? [Fill in the blank with "vain."] What does "vain" mean? "Vain" means useless, valueless, worthless, fruitless. Seeking to worship God by using things commanded by man is worthless to God.

2. Only two sources of worship are possible. What one uses in worship must come from either God or from man. When one sets aside what God has commanded, whose commandments must he of necessity be following? [Read Mark 7:8.] *Whose* traditions does man follow when he does not follow God? [Fill in the blank with "men."]

Jesus was not commending the Jewish people for following the traditions of men. Instead He was condemning them for following human traditions. God expects man to follow His will and not the traditions of men.

3. What do those who follow the traditions of men do to the word of God? [Read Mark 7:13.] *What* do traditions of men make God's word? [Fill in the blank with "none."] God's word is made void by human traditions.

A life preserver, when thrown to a drowning man who has fallen overboard into the ocean, can save his life. However, if someone should prevent the man from reaching the life preserver by throwing rocks at him, the life preserver that could save him would be rendered useless. This is what the traditions of men can do to prevent one from following the truth that has been revealed through Jesus Christ.

4. What else can traditions of men do to us? [Read Col. 2:8.] *What* can they do? [Fill in the blank with "spoil."] They will do this because they are *not* from *whom*? [Fill in the blank with "Christ."] What we do is either according to the teachings of men or according to the teaching of Christ. Will God accept us if we follow the teaching of men or if we follow the teaching of Christ? If what we do is according to the teaching of men, God will reject it; but if it is according to the teaching of Christ, God will accept it.

[On the back outside the circle write "Traditions of Men." See page 7.] The teachings of men are not according to the truth of Jesus Christ. They cannot be in the circle of things that are acceptable to God.

5. Who are the ones who teach the commandments of men? [Read Tit. 1:14.] *From what* have those who teach the commandments of men turned? [Fill in the blank with "truth."] The truth is in Christ Jesus. Those who teach the commandments of men are those who have departed from the truth, and for this reason are those who have departed from Jesus.

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that God rejects worship of human origin. Using in worship those things that are simply traditions of men are useless in God's sight. We have only two options to follow, either the truth that has come through Jesus Christ or the traditions of men. God accepts what has come through Jesus but rejects what comes from man.

III. From Christ or From Men

In order to determine whether a practice is acceptable to God, we must determine its origin. If what we do can be found in the teaching of Jesus, the apostles, and prophets, i.e., in the New Testament, we know God will accept it, but if it cannot be found there, we know that it is of human origin and must be rejected.

What are we told to do in Luke 18:1 and 1 Tim. 2:5? [Fill in the first blank under "From Christ" with "pray."] if we pray to God, is this acceptable? If we pray through Jesus as our mediator, is this acceptable? How do we know this is acceptable? We know it is acceptable because it is taught in the New Testament. In the Old Testament they did not pray through Jesus. Should we do what they did in the Old Testament?

What are some traditions of men associated with prayers? Some pray through Mary? Some use incense? Some pray to saints? Some use beads (the Rosary) in prayer? [Fill in the blank under "From Men" with these things from men.] Does God accept these practices? Are these practices from God or men? Did they use incense in the Old Testament? Should we use incense with our prayers as they did?

If we are going to practice these things, where must we find them taught? We would need to find them taught in the New Testament. If they cannot be found in the New Testament, they are traditions of men, are worthless, and should be avoided.

What else should be used in worship? [Read

Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:2.] *What* has Jesus commanded us to do? [Fill in the blank under "From Christ" with "give."] Is this from Jesus or men? If it is from Jesus, then it is acceptable; but if it is from men, then it is to be avoided. We know giving is acceptable to God because *giving* is from Jesus and the apostles.

What have men introduced in order to obtain money to support their churches? [Fill in the blank under "From Men" with "bake sales, raffles, rummage sales, tithing, etc."] Are these from Christ or men? If they are from Christ, they can be found in His teaching, but, if not, they are from men and are to be rejected. We do not find these practices in the teaching of Jesus or the apostles. Is tithing commanded in the Old Testament? Is tithing taught by Jesus and the apostles? If tithing is for us today, it must be commanded by Jesus. If it is a commandment of Jesus, it should be found in His teaching or that of the apostles. Since it is not found in Jesus' teaching, it is to be rejected as a commandment of men.

What else is to be practiced by the church of Christ? [Read 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7.] *What* did Jesus command His disciples to eat? [Fill in the blank under "From Christ" with "Lord's Supper."] Is the Lord's Supper from Christ or from men? If it is from Christ, we are to accept it; but if it is from men, we are to reject it. We are to eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine until Jesus comes because Jesus is the one who asked us to remember Him in this way.

Christians met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), not Saturday, the Sabbath (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 22:1; John 20:1). The Christians were under the guidance of the apostles, so the first day of the week observance of the Lord's Supper must be from Jesus. When we meet on the first day of the week to remember Jesus by eating the Lord's Supper, we are practicing what is from Jesus, not what is from men.

What have men done to the Lord's Supper? Some have withheld the fruit of the vine from the people. Others have substituted water for the fruit of the vine. Some observe the Lord's Supper yearly, quarterly, monthly, or any day of the week. [Fill in the blank under "From Men" with "water, one kind, and yearly."] Are these practices from Christ or from men? If they are from Christ, they should be found in the teaching of Jesus and the apostles. If they are not found there, they are from men and should be rejected. They are not found in Jesus' teaching, so must be rejected as teachings of men.

People under the Old Testament remembered their deliverance from Egyptian bondage on the Sabbath (i.e., on Saturday). Are Christians to observe the Sabbath in this way? Such a practice is not found in Jesus' teaching so should not be practiced.

What else did the early church do in worship? [Read Eph. 5:19.] *What* did they do? [Fill in the blank under "From Christ" with "sing."] The Christians were instructed to sing.

What have men included along with and besides singing in worship to God? [Fill in the blank under "From Men" with "piano, organ, guitar, etc."] If these are to be used in worship, they should be found in the teaching of Jesus and the apostles. They cannot be found in Jesus' teaching, so must be from men and for this reason must be rejected.

Were instruments of music used in the Old Testament worship? They were a part of the temple worship. Are Christians to use in worship what was used in the Old Testament worship? Christians are to use what is commanded by Jesus. So before they can use instruments of music in worship to God, they must find instructions for their use in the teaching of Jesus. They are *not* found in the teaching of Jesus and the apostles so should be rejected as from men. Singing is the only type of music taught and practiced in the New Testament, so should be the only music used in worship today.

What is another practice taught in the New Testament? They were instructed to do what? [Read 2 Tim. 2:2.] *What* were they to do? [Fill in the blank under "From Christ" with "teach."] God's way of attracting and instructing His people is through teaching.

What have men done? [Fill in the blank under "From Men" with "bribe, force, and entertain."] Such approaches in getting people to follow the teachings of Jesus are foreign to the teaching of Jesus and the apostles. Since these are not found in what they taught, it is evident that such practices are from men and should be avoided. In the historic past, men have paid money to people and used other type bribes or have used armies to bring the heathen to follow Jesus. Entertainment is just another way men have sought to get more in attendance. Those who come to Jesus and continue to follow Him are those who have been taught (John 6:45). This is from Jesus.

[On the back inside the circle, write "pray," "give," "Lord's Supper," "sing," "teach." Under "Traditions of Men" and outside the circle, write "Pray to Mary," "incense," "raffles," "bread only," "piano," "organ," "bribe," "force." See page 7.]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that those who are seeking to follow the truth that has been revealed by Jesus follow only those things taught by Jesus. They do not seek to worship God by using those things which have originated with man. They will give, pray, partake of the Lord's Supper, sing, and teach. They will *not* include what has not originated with Jesus.

IV. Adding and Taking Away

Are you seeking to worship God by using those things Jesus has told us to use? Are you using things that men have introduced into Christian worship?

1. What are we *not* to do? [Read Rev. 22:18, 19.] Jesus pronounced curses on those who *do what*? [Fill in the blanks with "add" and "take away."] This statement is made concerning the book of Revelation. This is to be admitted. The question is whether or not God thinks more of the book of Revelation than the other books of the Bible. Does God *not* want us to alter the book of Revelation yet consider changing any of the other books of the Bible all right? Surely God views all the other books of the Bible in the same way. Such a thesis is consistent with the rest of the teaching of the Bible (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6).

2. Who severs their relationship with God and Jesus? [Read 2 John 9.] *What* affects our relationship with Jesus and God? [Fill in the blanks with "transgress," "Christ," and "God."] "Transgress" means "to go beyond, to go outside of the limits." Those who do this do not have God.

Notice the drawing on the back of the study sheet. All the truth has been given by Jesus. Those who go outside His teaching, outside the circle [Draw an arrow from inside the circle to outside. See page 7.], are leaving the teaching of Jesus and going into the teaching of men. Those who do this do not have God. Those who remain in the teaching of Jesus have both the Father and the Son.

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that we are to remain in the teaching of Jesus. We are not to add to what He taught or to take away from what He taught.

Now go back over Section III and ask concerning those things mentioned under "From Christ" and "From Men." If one prays through Jesus, if he gives as he has been prospered, if he partakes of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, if he sings, and if he teaches, is he adding to what Jesus taught? Is he taking away from what Jesus taught?

If one prays to Mary is he adding? Is He taking

away? He is adding, and if he does not pray through Jesus, he is taking away. If one uses incense with his prayers, he is adding.

If one has raffles, bake sales, and rummage sales, is he adding? Is he taking away? By doing these he is adding, and if he uses these and does not give, by not giving he has taken away.

If one uses only the bread in the Lord's Supper, has he taken away? If he uses water instead of the fruit of the vine, he has taken away and added. Not eating the Lord's Supper weekly is taking away from the things which are written. If one should substitute apple juice or put butter and jelly on the bread of the Lord's Supper, he is adding and taking away from what is taught in the word. Such should be rejected.

If one uses instruments of music, he is adding to the worship of the Lord. If the instrument is used instead of singing, one has both added and taken away.

If bribes, force, or entertainment are used instead of teaching, one has added to and taken away. If one does these and teaches, he has added.

Jesus is the head of the church. All worship should be according to those things taught in His word in the New Testament.

Summary

In this lesson we considered principles that

should guide us when we consider what we should use in worship to God. In our worship to God we must be sure that what we do is acceptable to Him.

I. *Do you use in worship what God desires?* God desires worship that is in spirit and in truth. All truth has come through Jesus and has been revealed through the apostles and prophets of the New Testament. We are to observe all Jesus commanded.

II. *Do you use what God rejects?* God rejects the traditions and commandments of men. He accepts only what has been taught by Jesus. If we seek to worship God according to the teaching of men, our worship is useless.

III. *Do you use what has come from Christ or what has come from men?* We learned that Jesus wants us to pray, to give, to observe the Lord's Supper each week, to sing, and to teach. Men have introduced various practices associated with these and have altered what Jesus has told us to do.

IV. *Have you added or taken away?* The Bible teaches that we are not to add or take away. Men have added to and taken away from those things commanded by Jesus. In order to have God and Christ, we are *not* to follow these alterations that men have made.

Jesus is the only lawgiver (James 4:12). Men have no right to establish practices and make laws. Jesus alone has that right.

[Arrange a time for the next study.]

DO YOU WORSHIP GOD ACCEPTABLY?

I. Do you use in worship what God desires?

1. Worship must be acceptable to _____ . 1 Pet. 2:5
2. Worship must be in _____ and in _____ . John 4:24
3. The truth has come through _____ . John 1:1 7
4. The apostles were guided into _____ truth. John 16:13
5. They were to teach all things _____ commanded. Matt. 28:18-20

II. Do you use what God rejects?

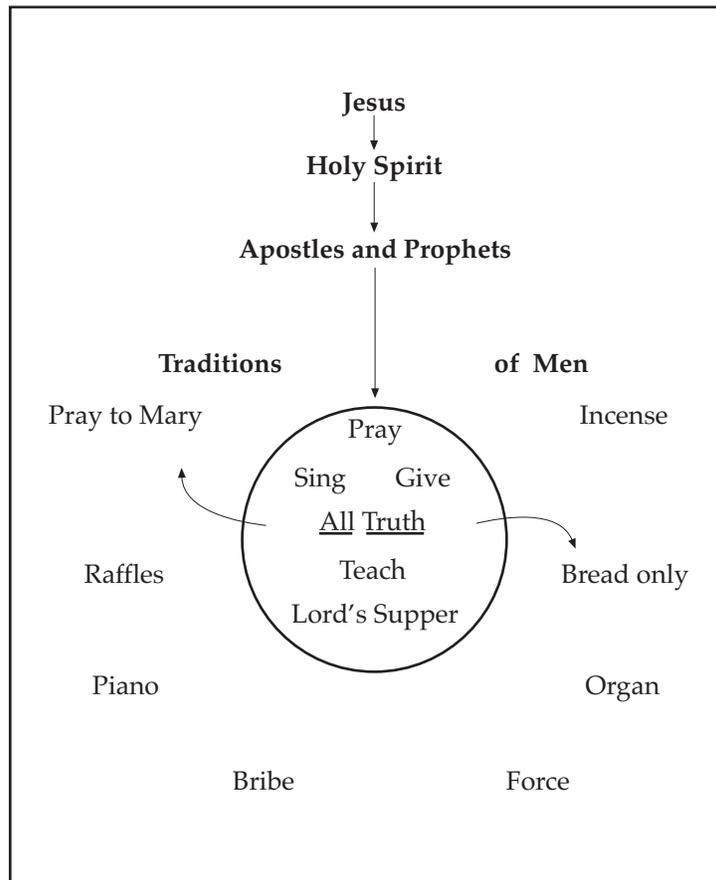
1. Worship by man's commandments is in _____ . Mark 7:7
2. By laying aside the commandment of God one holds the tradition of _____ . Mark 7:8
3. Human tradition makes God's word of _____ effect. Mark 7:13
4. The tradition of men can _____ us, because it is not after _____ . Col. 2:8
5. Commandments of men turn from the _____ . Titus 1:14

III. Do you use what has come from Christ or what has come from men?

FROM CHRIST		FROM MEN
_____	Luke 18:1	_____
_____	1 Tim. 2:5	_____
_____	Luke 6:38	_____
_____	1 Cor. 16:2	_____
_____	1 Cor. 11:23-26	_____
_____	Acts 20:7	_____
_____	Eph. 5:19	_____
_____	2 Tim. 2:2	_____

IV. Have you added or taken away?

1. We are not to _____ or _____ . Rev. 22:18, 19
2. Those who _____ and do not abide in the doctrine of _____ have not _____ . 2 John 9



The Drawing for the Back of the "Worship" Sheet.
 (See page 6.)