



The Southeast Sower

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“Fellowship in Worship” Jordon Smith

The Southeast Church of Christ meets at:
35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore, OH 44260
Phone:
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SERVICES:
Sunday
Bible Study:
10:00 am
Worship:
10:55 am
6:00 pm
Wednesday
Bible Study:
7:30 pm

“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful: and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:22-25).

When we assemble together and worship God it is important to keep in mind that God is present. When we are in the midst of God, especially in our service unto Him, we must remember that He is our Creator and we must give Him due respect. In Exodus 3:1-5 we read of God communicating to Moses

through the burning bush and in verse 5 God says, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” Like Moses, when we come together to worship God, or even in our individual worship, we must approach God with reverence and respect.

In John 4:24 we are told that “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” This type of worship, which God requires of us, demands the inner self. We cannot just simply be in attendance for each worship service because that is not enough. “These people honor Me with their lips, yet their hearts are far from Me” (Matt. 15:8). We are to be attentive to every aspect of the worship service. We are to pray with those who lead the public prayers, we are to sing (Ephesians 5:19;

Col. 3:16) out unto the Lord to praise Him. When the preacher begins his sermon it is not time to take a short nap, we should pay close attention to the words he speaks because he is revealing the commandments of God. If Jesus were the one speaking would you pay closer attention? Would you miss the opportunity to hear Him speak? If you say you would pay closer attention, then why? Is not the preacher presenting the teachings and words of Christ? “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). If you walk by faith then His spiritual presence will be just as important to us as His physical presence. Therefore, as we assemble together, we must worship with our whole self, from our hearts, so our worship may be found pleasing in the sight of God and encouraging to those we are worshipping with.

“Religion is Irrelevant & Inadequate”

Ed Holcomb

We hear a lot of talk today denouncing religion in general as being completely irrelevant and inadequate. When they refer to a corrupt, distorted, hypocritical, and inaccurate image of religion ‘so-called,’ I heartily concur. However, I earnestly contend and affirm that the religion of Christ, designed by the infinite One, found in the New Testament scriptures, is altogether relevant and all-sufficient!

Since man is not merely a physical being but also has a spiritual nature, all the material things on earth cannot satisfy his every need. Jesus said “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Mt. 4:4). There is inherently in man a longing, a desire, a hunger beyond the physical realm. Paul put it like this, “For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man” (Rom. 7:22). These are spiritual promptings that can only be satisfied by the inspired teaching of the Holy Spirit’s revelation. Man is essentially a creature that must worship something. The Spirit provides for all these spiritual needs of man through the Bible. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). If the Bible does meet and fulfill such desires in man, this proves conclusively, that both the physical world and the Bible are from a common source and that the author of both had a perfect knowledge of the needs of man, physically and spiritually. Notice seven ways in which the Bible is perfectly relevant and all-sufficient in supplying man’s needs.

It solves for man, the otherwise insolvable questions of origin and destiny. It disputes the silly human philosophies of spontaneous generation, and organic evolution. “By faith we understand that the worlds were

framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Heb. 11:3). (Bear this in mind, this statement was written centuries before any scientist even had an idea of atoms). God’s book tells us an infinite and omnipotent mind created the human species as the climax of His creation (Gen.1:31). It reveals the purpose of man, either to enter into his eternal reward in matchless glory with God in heaven, or into eternal damnation with Satan in hell, determined by his character, “eternal life to those who by patience continuance in doing good seek for glory, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath” (Rom. 2:7-8).

It reveals a being worthy of worship. A personal and moral Deity with whom there is no sin, unfairness, nor partiality. “To declare that the Lord is upright, He is my Rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him” (Psa. 92:15). He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to redeem the doomed creation. This He accomplished by becoming incarnate in Jesus. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:1, 14). The man, Jesus Christ, possessed the nature of God, and was the perfect image of Him in wisdom, power, and holiness, and through His atoning sacrifice man can have redemption (Jn. 14:5-9; Col. 1:13-14).

It satisfies man’s desire to be right with his Maker. It tells man, not only of his origin and sinful fall, but also how to be reconciled to God and regain access to the tree of life which was forfeited (2 Cor. 5:17-19; Rom. 5:1-2; Rev. 22:4).

It provides comfort in life’s trials. The unbeliever is so pitifully hopeless and completely helpless, drowning in stormy seas of despair amidst sickness, sorrow, misfortune, and the blackness of death! The genuine

saint has comfort and wonderful assurance that God will take care of him. Please read (Rom. 8:18, 28, 38-39; Phil. 4:6-7, 13, 19; 1 Pet. 1:3-4).

It has the remedy for man’s conscious weakness. In a world filled with sin, moral decay, physical death and spiritual doom, man feels weak and alone. In the revelation of God new life principles are supplied and implanted in receptive hearts effects regeneration of a new creation of God. (Jam. 1:21; 2 Cor. 5:17; Jn. 8:51; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).

The Bible contains that which can cancel the fear of death. The dread of death is present, but the hopeless fear of death is vanquished. (1 Cor. 15:53-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Tim. 1:10; 4:6-8).

The Bible fits man’s complex psyche. It appeals to intellect, challenges the power of his will, strikes upon his emotions; love, fear, hope, desire for living forever, and eternal comfort and rest. It will cultivate true character, correct imperfections, purify the conscience, make us humble, change covetousness into sacrifice and transform hatefulness into love. All this proves the author of the Bible had perfect understanding of the totality of man’s being as well as his needs! Certainly the Bible is adequate and perfectly relevant. Will you accept and obey it?

“The Importance of One”

-- author unknown

A young man walking along the beach at dawn noticed an old man picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. It was obvious he was rescuing the starfish before they were baked by the hot summer sun.

“Old man, this is a big beach with hundreds of these starfish,” the young man said sarcastically. “How can your efforts make any difference?”

The old man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. “It makes a big difference to this one,” he replied.