

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:6

Int. Spurgeon once said that this psalm had about it “a ring like that of church bells” calling men to worship. To what is a person called when he is called to worship? The language of the psalm shows the call to worship is a call to

COME SOMEWHERE

The Christian faith is characterized first of all by its appeal to *individuals*. “Matthew, follow me!” “Zacchaeus, come down!” But long with this appeal to individuals goes an emphasis on the *group* and the need to belong and share a common life. No one is saved BY the church but everyone saved is saved INTO the church. In fact, every saved person has been commanded not to forsake the “churching” of themselves together (Heb 10:25).

A call to worship is a call to gather as a group! All of the pronouns (and even the verbs) the psalmist used are plural. A believer can worship by himself in his closet and pray to the Father in secret. And he should. But in the warmth of Christian fellowship, in the company of other believers, something happens in worship that does not happen when he prays or meditates alone. True, a person can worship God in a bass boat, a deer stand or in front of the TV but he cannot worship as well alone as in the company of other Christians.

A call to worship is a call to gather with other believers. Do you?

DO SOMETHING

“Bow down” and “kneel” indicate that a call to worship is a call to join in. A true worshiper is not a spectator but a participator. “Worship” is a verb! It is something each believer in the group must do.

A play has three main elements: actors, directors and an audience. It is the same in worship. The question is, “Who does what?” Some take it that in worship the actors are up front on the platform. God is the director. And the congregation is the audience with no responsibility except to say, “I like it” or “I do not like it.” That is hugely wrong! It passes for worship but it is not! In worship members of the congregation are the actors. The people up front are the directors. And GOD is the audience! A call to worship is a call to the congregation to participate in the sacred drama of worship for the Audience of One—God himself!

A person who “gets nothing out of church” probably puts nothing in!

A call to worship is a call to participate—whole-heartedly. Do you?

MEET SOMEONE

In the center of the picture stands “the LORD our maker!” True worship trains heart, soul, mind and strength on God! Worship is about meeting him!

Worship is not just attending church; that centers on duty. It is not just giving thanks; that centers on blessings received. It is not just listening to a sermon; that can become just a transaction between speaker and hearer. It is not just prayer; that center on needs and desires. It is not just confession of sin; that centers on failure. Real worship is more than all of these. It is an encounter with the living God! When a man reaches out toward God and God reaches in toward him, where the two meet, true worship takes place.

For some no experience with God is expected or had. No word from God is listened for or heard. No obedience is offered God. Any person who does not meet God in what he calls “worship” has wasted his time! He may have done many things but he has not worshiped!

A call to worship is a call to meet God. Have you?

Con. It is time to come back to the “heart of worship”!