

15. TRUE DELIGHT IN WORSHIP

The reason that there were so many martyrs is that they refused to cease to worship. Spiritually minded people find such joy in all aspects of worship that they would rather die than be without it. David expresses this sentiment in **PSM 42:1-4** “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God “Again, in **PSM 69:9** David says, “for zeal for your house consumes me” And this is the scripture that the disciples remembered when Jesus turned over the tables of the money in the temple. **JN 2:15-17**

REASON ONE

How do we show zeal and delight in taking part in Spiritual worship, and how does it differ from the unbeliever, who might pretend to worship God? Those who have had a true Spiritual renewal will take delight in any activity that praises and honours God. They do not merely perform the actions of worship, but their hearts are stimulated by them. The means that God has ordained for His worship, such as humility, reverence and thankfulness, are to quicken our love, trust, delight and fear of God. It is to excite greater love for God. The tragedy of performing mere formalities is that it insults God, for God hates empty formality.

The true believer knows that faith is the only way to approach God. If we love God we will obey and reverence Him. It is generally true that those who neglect public worship do not prosper Spiritually. Where there are those whose access to public worship is restricted for various reasons beyond their control, they need to seek the Lord's help in disciplining their time to devote themselves to pray and study. God's purpose in calling us to public worship is that our faith and love shall be nurtured. We worship God with our minds and hearts, and we need to prepare ourselves for this purpose.

A good habit is to make brief notes of your understanding of what the preacher is saying, in order to refresh your memory, or further enlighten your understanding by consulting a commentary. We are to make sure that our worship services do not distract our attention from focusing on God by such things as thumping bands for music, or dance routines.

It is true that some preachers are more gifted in oratory than others, but the true believer will learn and take delight even in the message of the less gifted oratory. Because they are both expounding the word of God, which to the true believer, is the fountain of life.

REASON TWO

The second reason for the delight in worship, which is experienced by those Spiritually renewed, is that the activities of worship such as preaching, prayer, praise and fellowship, are the means by which we experience the presence of God. This we do by faith. Our hope is in God. **ROM 5:5** “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” And this hope is renewed by the acts of worship.

Worship is the garden where Christ comes to meet those, He loves **SONGS 7:12**. Where we have experienced this upliftment in the past, it will encourage us to new experiences in the future. If our minds and hearts are preoccupied by other concerns, we will forfeit the joy of worship.

REASON THREE

Those who are Spiritually renewed can delight in worship because they know that is the way to Glorify God, which is the chief purpose of worship. Jesus gave the example of the Lord’s Prayer – **MATT 6:9-13** as a wonderfully concise and expansive petition to God in His praise, and our needs and obligations. Our safety and Spiritual prosperity as believers depend upon that prayer being answered. Believers delight to do whatever displays the Glory of God.

Without the desire for God’s Glory we will experience no delight in our worship.