

CHOOSING LIFE'S WAY OF WORSHIP

Jeremiah 8:20; 7:4-7

Introduction: How do people choose where to go to Church? There are so many places, so many kinds of services, so many kinds of "preachers," so many kinds of music, so many programs offered. How does a person choose which kind of music? Which kind of program? Which kind of preacher/pastor? Which kind of worship program? Everybody is different, so what is the best way to choose a way, a style of worship?

I. HAZARDS OF UNWISE CHOICES

1. Emphasizing a "Place" of worship rather than focusing on God can be unwise.
 - God cannot be found in every place of worship and God is not going to accept deception.
 - What God demands in worship is contrasted in man's attempts to deceive God.
 - Conduct reflects people's false religious experience.
2. Emphasizing the "Program" of worship rather than focusing on God can be unwise.
 - People try to impress God with their programs but these are all in vain.
 - The reasons for many "programs" (motivation events) are not God honoring.
 - Today's worship is being abused. There is a failure to listen to God's Word and in it's place worldliness is inserted.

II. CONSEQUENCES OF UNWISE CHOICES

1. There are personal consequences in making an unwise choice in a way of worship.
 - It is irrational to abandon God's directives, instructions.
 - It is illogical to reject God's Word and how God demands to be worshipped.
 - It is self-destructive to alienate one's self from God through false worship.
2. There are consequences to bystanders as well.
 - It brings grief to those who know the difference between right and wrong worship and to see a loved one or a friend going the wrong way.
 - It creates the desire to just go somewhere else or walk away from any style of worship.

III. HOW TO CHOOSE WISELY

1. One must be totally, completely reliant upon what God wants, how God wants to be worshipped.
2. One should compare his/her options for worship:
 - Does one want an empty, lifeless style, type of worship?
 - Does one want a worship that is Holy Spirit led?

CONCLUSION:

1. Lowering God's standards of worship will cloud the real intent, meaning of worship.
2. Relying only on the externals of worship brings little if any Spiritual happenings.