

## Solution to Study 0062

### New Covenant Era Worship: Introduction (4)

We continue still, with our introduction of New Covenant Era Worship, as we continue with our observation of New Covenant worshippers displaying the same negative traits of the Old Covenant worshipper. May our study today, bring us back to the place of the true worship of God, in Jesus' name, Amen.

15. Many of the people in our churches today, are quick to forget God when they are materially prosperous. They very easily turn to idolatry and are proud. *What is the biblical solution to this matter of believers forgetting God?* (3 John 2; Deuteronomy 6:6-17; 8:1-18; Psalm 106:13; 78:10-11; Judges 2:10-12; 2 Kings 17:15; 1 Corinthians 10:23-26). *The last scripture here should read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.*

The biblical solution to believers forgetting God is as follows:

- (a) Make sure that your spiritual prosperity is given greater priority over all other aspects of prosperity.
- (b) Keep the word of God always, before you, and before your children.
- (c) Always be thankful to God for all that He has given you.
- (d) Always seek God's counsel in every situation.
- (e) Keep God's covenant (that is, play your own part), and walk according to His word.
- (f) Stick to the 'old time religion'; don't try to be so contemporary, you completely go off course from God.
- (g) Do not copy the world or other churches that do not walk according to God's word.
- (h) Frequently celebrate Holy Communion.

16. Many of the people in our churches are focused on themselves alone and their needs, and have very little or no concern for the house of God (be it the physical aspect, or, most especially, the spiritual aspect). *What is the main cause for this lack of interest in the things of God; what are the consequences (if any); and, what can we do to be sold out on the things of God?* (Philippians 2:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:10a; Matthew 24:10-13; Haggai 1:3-11; Psalm 106:14-15; Philippians 2:4; 1:21; Luke 12:22-34; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 16:21-26; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1-3).

Causes of lack of interest in the things of God:

- (a) Self-centredness
- (b) Love for the world
- (c) The increase in sinfulness among so called believers and ministers of the gospel.

Consequences of lack of interest in the things of God:

- (a) Working as an elephant and eating like an ant.
- (b) Famine in the land and in your life.
- (c) Withheld blessings.
- (d) Spiritual leanness.
- (e) Decay and death.

Actions to be taken to bring back interest in the things of God:

- (a) Selflessness/serving others.
- (b) Living for Christ.
- (c) Seek first the kingdom of God in all things.
- (d) Casting (handing over) your concerns to God in prayer.
- (e) Abandon/disregard your own interests and ambitions and take up God's desire for you.
- (f) Set your sights on or aim and seek the things of heaven and heaven itself; in other words, let your loyalty be 100% to God and Christ.

17. Many of the people in our churches today, are in church quite alright, but are not in Christ, that is, they really have nothing to do with Christ, the Head of the church, other than that He is seen as one who is expected to provide for their needs only. *Is there really any difference between being in church and being in Christ?* (**2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:17-32**).

Yes, there is a difference between being in church and being in Christ, when a person merely attends church services and programmes without any outward change resulting from an inward spiritual transformation; and,

No, there is no difference between being in church and being in Christ, when a person has indeed put off the old man, has put on the new man which is renewed in true holiness and righteousness, and, has become one with Christ; thus becoming a part of the Body of Christ, the Church.

18. There are many so called, 'ministers of God' today, who are neither consecrated unto God, nor devoted to God; but their devotion is to what they can get out of ministry, financially and otherwise. *What is expected of a minister of God?* (**Philippians 3:17-20; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 6:3; 2 Chronicles 19:5-11; Exodus 18:21; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Mark 10:42-45; John 21:15-17**).

A true minister of God is expected to be; among others (the list is by no means exhaustive):

- (a) A citizen of heaven, and hence, 100% loyal to God and His kingdom;
- (b) A person of good report within and outside the church;
- (c) A God-fearing man;
- (d) Able to teach the unadulterated word of God;
- (e) Able to rule his household well;
- (f) A person full of the wisdom of God;
- (g) A person full of the Holy Spirit;
- (h) A person of integrity;
- (i) Not covetous;
- (j) One who takes care of the flock of God, not by coercion, not by compulsion, not for the sake of gain, nor as a lord over them; but as one who is willingly serving His Lord from a good heart, and is an example for the flock to follow;
- (k) One who takes care of the flock of God out of his undying love for God.

19. For many of the people in our churches, repentance holds very limited meaning, and its significance is seen by them, only in so far as they can wriggle out of a tight spot. Once they are out of such a tight spot, they quickly turn again back to their old ways. *What is true repentance?* (2 Peter 2:20-22; Hebrews 6:4-6; Luke 3:8-14; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 32:1-5; Luke 19:2-9; Psalm 51:1-19).

For repentance to be true there must be:

- (a) Godly sorrow for sin;
- (b) An acknowledgement of sin;
- (c) Confession (vocalizing) of sin;
- (d) A willingness to forsake sin;
- (e) Restitution where necessary (please seek pastoral counsel before embarking on restitution);
- (f) A hatred of sin;
- (g) Above all, a broken and contrite heart.

### **Review**

As we come to the end of our study, **2 Corinthians 13:5** is very apt, for we need to undertake a personal evaluation to see if we are still in the faith. Is the ‘forgetting-God’ syndrome at work in you? Are you lethargic toward the things of God, while paying particular attention to your own needs? Are you content with just attending church regularly? Do you see yourself just as a Christian who goes to church, but not one who, in addition, should be ministering to, and on behalf of God? If your honest answer to any, or all of these questions, is “Yes”, then go to God in true repentance and begin anew to walk with Him and to work in His vineyard with renewed enthusiasm. God bless you!