

ONLY BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE CAN WORSHIP GOD

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Chronicles 16:28-30**. From Roy H. Enoch (04-09-1995).
- B. Modern idolatry will condemn as surely as ancient idolatry.
 - 1. The Israelites were condemned for sacrificing their children to Molech, the fire god of the Ammonites.
 - 2. Modern Americans sacrifice their children to materialism and pleasure, the vicious gods of 20th century America. The idols of success, popularity, glamour, and even the government, are modern proof of man's willingness to substitute things and pleasure for God.
- C. The true God wants true worshipers (Jn. 4:23-24).
- D. We can learn from true worshipers of the old covenant that the art of worship is both a demanding exercise and a rewarding experience.
- E. Let us note the background of the text:
 - 1. In 1Sam. 4 the Philistines had captured the ark and killed Eli's sons.
 - 2. God brought plagues against the Philistines while it was in their country (1Sam. 5).
 - 3. The Philistines sent it back to Israel and it was placed at Kirjath-Jearim, or Baale-Judah, its ancient name (1Sam. 6:21).
 - 4. The ark stayed there for over 20 years until David had it brought to Jerusalem (2Sam. 6).
 - 5. In 1Chr. 16 we have David's psalm given in thanks to the Lord for allowing the Ark and worship to be brought to Jerusalem, and our text from that psalm gives a description of worship and worshipers.
- F. In this lesson we want to apply some of those characteristics.
 - 1. True worship recognizes the true God.
 - 2. True worshipers must have "the beauty of holiness."
 - 3. Holiness is required to worship God.

I. TRUE WORSHIP RECOGNIZES THE TRUE GOD.

- A. True worship begins with a recognition of and respect for God's greatness.
 - 1. "Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works" (1Chr. 16:9).
 - a. Consider all of the Universe which He made (Psa. 19:1-3).
 - b. Consider the Scheme of Redemption (1Pet. 1:9-12).
 - 2. "Glory to His holy name..." (v10).
 - 3. "Seek the lord..." (v11).
 - a. Isaiah challenged Israel (Isa. 55:6-7).
 - b. Paul observed to the Athenians (Ac. 17:27).
- B. God's judgments "...are in all of the earth" (v14).
 - 1. We can see how dependable God's judgments are by looking at the physical realm: ignorance of the laws of nature does not spare man the consequences.
 - 2. The consequences of sin in our lives brings condemnation that is as sure and much more devastating.
 - 3. We may also see how God rules in the kingdoms of the earth.
- C. "...proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day" (v23).
 - 1. In the OT, salvation sometimes referred to political deliverance (Ex. 14:30).
 - 2. In the NT, salvation is from sins (Mt. 1:21).

II. TRUE WORSHIPERS MUST HAVE "THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS."

- A. Men have all kinds of "beauty" contests.
 - 1. Most seem to focus only on physical appearance.
 - 2. Some include talent contests.

3. Athletic games test the beauty of skills.
4. The greatest beauty is by choice and is enduring.
 - a. Regardless of our physical imperfections, we choose a "beauty of holiness."
 - b. Even our spiritual imperfections can be corrected by the blood of X.
 - c. The principle of holiness is a dedication that is chosen.
 - d. The word in the NT is translated sanctification half of the time in the KJV and most of the time in the ASV (Rom. 6:22; Heb. 12:14)
 - e. Strong's # 38 *hagiasmos* (hag-ee-as-mos'); properly, purification, i.e. (the state) purity; concretely (by Hebraism) a purifier: KJV-- holiness, sanctification.
Vine's for the OT word says that it means devoted or dedicated in a special sense.
- B. Those who worship God must have a beauty that surpasses external, physical appearance or skill.
 1. Physical beauty and skill wane with time.
 2. Sarah was such a beautiful woman that Abraham was afraid that men would kill him to have her, when she was about 65 and 75, yet when she died, he wanted to bury her, "out of my sight."
 3. Physical beauty is vain in comparison to "the beauty of holiness." Prov. 31:30
 4. Peter contrasted the physical beauty with inward beauty. 1Peter 3:3-6
- C. There is truly a "BEAUTY OF HOLINESS."

III. HOLINESS IS REQUIRED TO WORSHIP GOD.

- A. In Leviticus God instructed His people in holiness.
God told the children of Israel, "...you shall be holy men unto me" (Ex. 22:31; Lev. 11:44).
- B. Peter also instructs us to be holy or sanctified to God (1Pet. 1:13-16).
- C. We are told why it is necessary to be holy to worship God.
 1. God is a jealous God who will not accept divided loyalty.
 2. We cannot honor and respect God in worship if the way we live in our everyday life focuses on ourselves and the world.
- D. The motivation for this devotion and dedication is having God for our Father (2Cor. 6:18; 7:1).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Worshipping God is the highest form of art.
 1. We do not know what is best and must follow His instructions.
 2. We cannot know what is holy unless He tells us.
- B. It is unbelievable that man could give honor to the God of heaven.
 1. It is even more unbelievable that the God of heaven would accept the worship and adoration that man offers.
 2. It is even more incredible that God wants to bless us and is concerned about our welfare, much less that He would purchase our salvation from sin with the death of His Son, and that He would to share heaven with mankind.
- C. Worship that He will accept demands:
 1. The best of our minds.
 2. The real devotion of our hearts.
 3. The sincere dedication of our lives to His glory.
- D. Truly, only beautiful people can serve God--only those having the "BEAUTY OF GODLINESS."