

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #6

I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BECAUSE IT IS SCRIPTURAL IN WORSHIP. To be “scriptural” in worship simply means it follows the “pattern” of the New Testament in regards to worship. God has not left it up to men to determine *when* and *where* and *how* they worship. God-approved worship is according to His will, not man’s will. Men do a lot of things in worship that please themselves. That is not acceptable worship.

God-approved worship is God-appointed worship. Our plea and practice must be, “What does God want?” Jesus told the woman at Jacob’s well that “...*true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*” (John 4:23-24). Those who worship God acceptably must worship him with both the proper frame of mind (spirit) and with the proper action (truth).

To know HOW to worship God acceptably, we should observe *how*, *what* and *when* Christians in the first century worshiped. Therefore, we observe...

PRAYING was a part of worship. “...*Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God...*” (Acts 12:5; 2:42). According to Jesus, prayer is addressed to God the Father in the name of Jesus the Son (John 16:23; cf. Matt. 6:9). Is this your practice?

Observing the LORD’S SUPPER was a part of worship. “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples*

came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7). “Breaking bread” is simply another way of referring to the “Lord’s supper.” It is observed every first day of every week. The church at Corinth was given instruction in partaking the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

SINGING was a part of worship. “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Singing was “a cappella” — without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music. The entire congregation participated. There were no “special music” presentations by choirs, choruses and/or singing groups.

GIVING was a part of worship. “*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him...*” (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7). Each member gave a free-will contribution upon the first day of the week. There were no sales, fund raisers or special offerings.

PREACHING was a part of worship. “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together ...Paul preached unto them...*” (Acts 20:7). Nothing but the whole counsel of God was preached without fear, favor or compromise (Acts 20:20,26-27).

The church of Christ today follows this same God-ordained pattern. Worship is conducted “*decently and in order*” (1 Cor. 14:40).

Is this how the church you attend worships? If not, why?

— Garland M. Robinson