

The Church Assembles To Worship

(The Assemblies of The Church Series - #1)

October 28, 2007

Review

Our 2007 Theme is **Here Is The Church**, and we have studied:
The Cause We Plead – history of the church and a way of restoration
How To Become A Member Of The Church – according to the NT
The Purpose Of The Church – what we are called out to do in this world
The Organization Of The Church – how the local church functions

Introduction to the series...

God's people have always "come together" for worship (*Ps. 22:22*).
The New Testament Church assembled regularly (*Acts 2:46*) and
Christians are commanded to never stop meeting together (*Heb 10:25*).
In this series we will:

- see how, when, and why the NT church assembled
- answer some common errors of the day (day of worship, purpose of Church assemblies, acceptable acts of worship)
- correct 2 wrong ideas (1 - simply "being there" at worship is enough, and 2 - being there isn't necessary)

Psalm 34:1-3

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

Believers can worship God in _____ . Matt 5:5,6

Believers must worship God _____ . Heb 10:25

John 4:23,24

...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

From Justin Martyr's *1st Apology* – ch. 67 – about 150 AD

"And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place" (*to hear readings from the apostles and prophets, to hear sermons, to pray, to take the Lord's Supper, and to give*). "...Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead."

Two Essentials of Worship...

Must worship in the right _____ . "in spirit"

Matt 15:8,9 Not just _____ acts, but from the _____.

The very essence of worship is an inward attitude of the heart along with specific mental activity directed toward God.

Ps 8

Ps 25:1,2

Ps 34:1-3

Ps 148

Must worship the right _____ in the right _____ . "in truth"

The Samaritans worshiped an _____ concept of God.

(Jn 4:22 - ...you worship what you do not know)

The Jews worshiped a _____ [at the time] concept of God.

(Jn 4:22 - ...we worship what we know)

Christians worship the _____ of God in Christ Jesus.

(Ephesians 3)

The more we know about God's nature and works, the more rich and meaningful our worship can be.

We must worship in ways that are revealed in God's Word.

The Special Day of Worship...

It is appropriate for an individual to worship God and also for Christians to assemble together for corporate worship at any time of day, and on any day of the week. There is, however, one specific day when assembly is required.

The Israelites (after the exodus) were required to set aside the 7th day of the week (Saturday) as a special day - the Sabbath. Ex 20:8

Of the 10 commandments, this is the only one not repeated/taught in the NT. In fact, Col 2:16 says that none of the special days designated by the Mosaic law are binding on Christians today, including the Sabbath.

_____ worship was the practice in NT times. *Acts 20:7, 1 Cor 16:1,2*

Sunday worship was the practice according to early Christian writers. (Ignatius, early 2nd century, wrote that Christians were "no longer keeping the Sabbath, but living in accordance with the Lord's day, on which our life arose through him.")

All four Gospels begin their accounts of the resurrection by saying it was the first day of the week. Christ's resurrection was the beginning of a new creation and a new age. It is fitting that we honor the Savior on the day when he arose victorious.