

- Rev. Grant Mangold, www.RiversideChurchIowa.com

INTENTIONAL WORSHIP - DEUX

Many people today consider "worship" an archaic and optional concept - only if and when you feel like it. Is that because it so obviously humbles you? Indeed, the word comes from the Old English "worth-ship" and points to the worthiness of God. **God IS**. Therefore God is worthy of your worship. *Intentionally*.

But countless people who do acknowledge His existence do not worship Him. Worship puts God above you. Many respond like Adam and Eve, newly aware of their humble state, in futility trying to hide from God's presence. Bowing before the eternally holy, all-powerful, all-knowing Creator reminds you of your human humiliation. You rightly fear the awe-ful majesty and perfection of the One who created you and will one day judge you against His own pure holiness. And that's precisely WHY you must worship God.

Psalm 100 is a good place to begin - "***Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.***"

LORD in all-capital letters in your Bible refers to the personal proper name of God. The Hebrew letters YHWH translate as Jehovah some 6,000 times in the Old Testament. Ancient Jews held God in such high regard they would not breathe His proper name, so LORD becomes His acceptable address.

Worship involves doing, saying, thinking - actions, articulations, attitudes - all appropriate to the awesomeness of Him you address. It involves your whole being - mind and heart and will. We come with prayer and praise, singing with gladness. **God accepts joyful bleating noise**, not requiring professional perfection of audiophile precision. We each come just as we are, as best we are able, simply because He IS God. He made us, and we are His. This challenges the deluded "authority of self" and arrogance of atheism and audacity of agnosticism, which says "there's not enough evidence for God."

He invites all the earth - everyone - to worship Him. Every person of every people group in all places and all times. He accepts the acknowledgement of mere humans - who are as sheep in His sight but created in His own image - with the ability to know Him and live in relationship with Him. Romans 1:18 says "***what can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.***"

Romans 1 says those who "***suppress the truth***" in unrighteousness "***did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him.***" In futility, "***claiming to be wise they became fools.***" We see the opposite in Psalm 100, what Scripture calls "***the obedience of faith***" as people rightly respond to God's invitation.

Don't let sin keep you from coming to God - rather, come to Him BECAUSE of your sin. He will heal you. Stubborn sheep, abandon your fears and doubts, and trust the Great Shepherd. If only all who turn away from God would simply turn to Him, they too would know the life-transforming goodness and faithfulness of God in Psalm 100. Intentional worship of the One who is worthy.

Because the Good Shepherd never gives up. He has come **to seek and to save** lost sheep in all generations. He even became the Lamb of God, to give His life to pay the penalty for sin. And when you are re-born with His resurrection life, you receive His grace, by trusting in Him as your Lord and Savior. You are welcomed into His fold, His gates, His courts, with His everlasting loving grace.

Will you respond with thoughts, words, deeds - worship with heart, mind, will - to the One who is worthy, who gave His life for you? Come and give your life to Him, as "***living sacrifices***" of Romans 12 and 1 Peter 2. Because if His new life flows through yours, you know Him and His purpose for you.

So worship is intentional. Worship is 24-7. Because now you live life for Him -
- Who alone is worthy of your worship, now and forever!