

WORSHIPPING A REVEALED GOD

Matthew 15:8-9 ... “These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

Worship seems like a simple thing to understand and even easier to do. For many years I would go to church, stand and sing the songs along with everyone else, and then sit down for the sermon thinking I had worshipped. I was singing songs, raising my hands, and praying for the purpose of touching God and hoping he would reveal himself to me through that act. In fact, many churches teach exactly that. They teach that you should worship God so he will reveal himself to you. Eventually, I came to understand that true worship was quite different than what I had been practicing.

The purpose for worship is not to find God, but to celebrate the God you have already found. Your worship is valid when God has revealed himself to you. Said another way, instead of worshipping God to understand him better, you should worship **BECAUSE** you understand him better, which is the result of living righteously and obediently to his instruction. An analogy is wanting to see Boracay or Singapore. You do not go to a travel agency in Gensan and stand outside the office hoping to catch a glimpse of those places. And, you cannot honestly praise the beauty of those places if you have never been there. You praise those sights after you have been there; after you have enjoyed them and seen them with your own eyes.

There is nothing wrong with singing songs in church, or singing them as you work or drive. Christian songs are a gift that can inspire, calm and soothe us. However, the actual act of worship really only happens when you sing those songs to the Lord in a humble, sacrificial and reverent manner. And, your reason for doing so is to celebrate the God who is revealing himself to you, which he can only do if you are living obediently to him. If you are living in such a manner that God cannot yet reveal his character, or his will for your life, then you are just serenading God. Until you can worship the God you know, instead of trying to know God through worship, you cannot share him with others. A person who witnesses for Christ without understanding him, is only telling people what God claims to be, instead of what you personally know God to be.

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