

Christian Doctrine

The Church (Part 5)

The Goal of the Church

The Main Goal of the Church

Our study of the church will show that the church has many purposes. However, there is only one main goal of a church, and that is to worship God. Just as God created individuals to give Him glory through acts of worship, God intends for the church to carry out that same purpose (Is. 43:7; Rom. 15:6; I Cor. 10:31; Eph. 1:12; 3:21; I Pet. 4:11).

What Is Worship?

The basic idea behind worship is to attribute “worth” to someone or something. The worship of God, therefore, is intentionally using our words and/or actions as a way to show that God is worthy of glory. True worship must come from the heart and be genuine (Matt. 15:8-9; John 4:23-24). When a church comes together for a worship service, the entire focus is toward God and everything done is for the purpose of worshipping God.

Elements of a Worship Service

Scripture gives several things that should be part of a worship service:

- Preaching of the Word (II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 1:23-25)
- Prayer (Matt. 21:13; Acts 12:5; 13:3)
- Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- Giving – of ourselves for His service (II Cor. 8:5), as well as financial gifts (I Cor. 16:1). Both should be done with the right heart (II Cor. 9:7).
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:12-17)

Why Do We Meet for Worship on Sundays?

The idea of the Lord’s Day (Sunday) should not be confused with the Sabbath day (Saturday, the day of rest, as seen in the O.T. Law, but not commanded in N.T.). The early church met on Sundays because it was the day of the Lord’s resurrection. The first day of the week, therefore, became a day for celebrating Christ’s resurrection and for worship (Mark 16:2, 9; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2).