

OBEDIENCE -or- ENTERTAINMENT

by Robert Hatfield

Offering acceptable worship to God is a difficult task which requires great attention. History teaches that worship has always been a difficult thing for men.

Old Testament examples indicate the difficulty of worship for humans. King Saul learned that “going through the motions” is not enough when Samuel rebuked him for offering a sacrifice. Saul was told, “to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15:22). David learned that entertainment is not the answer to acceptably worshipping God when he created a great celebration and built a new cart for the arrival of the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6-7). This unwise decision ultimately cost Uzzah his life (2 Sam. 6:6-7).

Many centuries separate these examples from modern man, yet the same problems continually arise. Men today seem to be more concerned about entertainment and excitement than being pleasing to God.

Acceptable worship to God demands the following ingredients.

The Right Direction. Christians’ minds are to be set on things above (Col. 3:1-2). This undoubtedly includes worship to God. However, today’s mind-set seems to be focused on those attending the worship service rather than on God. The wise man sums up the purpose of existence: “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13). The object of worship is God. “God is a spirit: and they that worship **him** must worship **him** in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24, emp mine, RH).

The Right Doctrine. God has specified that worship is to be in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and has given a pattern in the New Testament for worshipping Him. It is by God’s commands that men are to worship Him — not by opinions.

The Proper Dedication. One must be willing to stay focused during the worship service. The mind must be controlled to keep thoughts from wandering. Proper dedication to attendance is also necessary (Heb. 10:25).

The point is this: Christians must put away selfish attitudes in service and worship to God. Attitudes such as, “I didn’t get anything out of that service” or “The prayer was too long” neither help that individual to grow closer to God nor offer acceptable worship to the Father.

[www. *East Hill Church* .org](http://www.EastHillChurch.org)

From *The East Hill News*
Published by the East Hill Church of Christ
P.O. Box 329 • Pulaski, TN 38478
(931) ~ 363-2777