**LIBERTY CHURCH, YUKON**

**Dr. Kevin Clarkson February 21, 2021**

**UPSIDE-DOWN WORSHIP**

As we seek to right an “upside-down” world and turn people to God, let’s be certain that we are rightly

doing the things, the Lord has created and called us to do.

Worship is from Old English “worthship” – used of kings and royalty, as “your lordship” was.

A lesser bows to a greater, a subject to a King, and admits the “worth” of the one so recognized.

PSALM 95:1-8

**1. Beware the Dangers of False Worship (v.3)**

Israel was surrounded by nations worshipping false “gods,” demons of Satan

Men have a need, an impulse to worship something – they fill it with the false:

celebrities “heroes,” “idols,” Reason, Self...even Satan himself

**Luke 4:5-8** Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the

world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the **Lord** your God, and Him only you shall serve.’  ” NKJV

This is why the FIRST commandment is about worshipping the TRUE GOD

**Exodus 20:2-3** “I *am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. NKJV

This Danger is Deafly and will lead to Damnation!

**2. Banish the Deeds of Empty Worship (v.8)**

God’s own people can fall into this, coming only with “lip service,” not life Surrender

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for doing so -

**Matthew 15:3-9** He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of

God because of your tradition?  4 For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’  5 But you say, ‘Whoever

says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* a gift *to God*”—

6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of

no effect by your tradition.  7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people

draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ” NKJV

God looks at the HEART above all else!

Watch out for:

“holy habits” – going through the motions without engaging heart of mind

“tired traditions” – just doing what was passed down to you without owning it yourself

“clueless customs” – thoughtless copying of others without entering into the reality of it

**3. Become a Devotee of True Worship**

Start with CELEBRATION (PRAISE)

v.1-5, sing...joyful noise...come before His presence...thanksgiving...psalms

Recognize the King, the Savior (Rock of salvation), Creator (Maker), Guide (Shepherd)

Come to ADORATION (PRAYER)

v. 6-7, worship...bow down...kneel before – humbled, intimate audience with Ruler Relationship

with “our God,” “we are His people”

Continue to CONTEMPLATION (PROCLAMATION)

V. 7-8, hear His voice – respond rightly to His truth, believe and act upon it!

You have the privilege to “see My work...know My ways,” says the living Lord!