

## HOW GOD IDENTIFIED HIMSELF (1 OF 3)

David Halbrook

Nature proves that God exists and that He is powerful (Romans 1:20). But God has revealed much more about Himself to us.

In Genesis 1:1, “Elohiym” (God) created the heavens and earth. In Genesis 17:1, God identifies Himself to Abraham as “Almighty God.” In John 17:11, Jesus prayed to “Holy Father.” In Hebrews 1:10, the Father called Jesus “LORD.” By these words, we learn more about God, and we know what to say when speaking to Him.

One of the ways that the Catholic Church identifies their pope is by calling him “Holy Father.” Do you think Jesus referred to Peter this way also? No, that title and recognition belongs to only One (Ephesians 4:6).

The Jehovah’s Witnesses deny that Jesus is Jehovah, but in Hebrews 1:10, God identifies Jesus this way. If God recognized Jesus as Jehovah, why do those who claim to be “Jehovah’s Witnesses” reject this? Because they preach another Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4).

Would you dare pray to God and address Him as “John” or “Mother”? This would be blasphemy! Learn who God is from God Himself and determine to obey Him (Luke 6:46). If we can help you learn more about God, contact us.

-- *Editor’s Note:* Spiritually, the people of Batesville are confused and deceived in many ways—even in the first principle area of identifying the true God. What can we do about that? Give generously so we can continue to teach in the newspaper, and work to make the most of this teaching—find this week’s article in the *Arkansas Weekly* and give it to SOMEONE this week, even a stranger. Sometimes, the worst thing we can do is nothing. What will YOU do?

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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## ***ARE YOU BORED WITH WORSHIP?***

*Dennis Abernathy*

You may say that this is an unusual title for an article. Well, may it is. But I have talked with quite a number recently, and the number seems to be growing, who come right out and say or hint to the effect that worship services are boring to them. One brother told me that “our worship in the church of Christ is in a rut.” Now I don’t know about you, but this is alarming to me. Maybe we should sit down and take a long hard look at our worship to God. What is behind this thinking?

The Word of God teaches me how to worship God. Jesus said in John 4:24, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” I must worship Him in spirit. That is, I must be sincere, or it must be heart-worship. Also, I must worship Him in truth. This is according to the Word of God which is the truth (John 17:17). Now there are many today who believe that all a person must do to worship acceptably is to show sincerity on their part. But we must realize that one can be sincerely wrong. Paul was. All he did, before he was converted to the truth, he did with a clear conscience, thinking he was right and pleasing to God. But he himself said that he was “chief of sinners.” The Jews, of whom Paul speaks in Romans 10 were sincere—they had a “zeal for God” but it was “not according to knowledge.” While one must be sincere to worship acceptable, sincerity in and of itself is not enough. On the other hand, there are many who worship God according to truth, but are not sincere.

They just go through the form or motions. They make an outward show. They honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from Him (Matt. 15:8). Then there are those who are wrong on both ends. In Matt. 15:8 it says, “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” The point is that their HEART was not in it! The very next verse states, “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” The

point here is that it is not according to TRUTH! So their worship was neither in spirit nor in truth.

Dear reader, if you are bored with worship the problem may be on how you worship. Just maybe you need to check and be sure that what you are doing is according to the truth. Also you need to examine your own heart and see if your heart is in your worship.

But most people who express themselves in this way have in mind the order or the procedure of worship services. They have an idea that the services are dull and lifeless and not spirited enough (One brother told me we ought to do a little testifying ever so often to liven things up). The thinking is that if we just sing two songs, have prayer, then sing another song, have the Lord's Supper, preaching, and then dismiss, the worship is boring and in a rut. Now let me hasten to say that I think it is fine to change the procedure of our services (the number of songs, taking the Supper before or after the preaching, etc). That is all well and good. But my point is this: why change just for the sake of changing? This is the problem with so many today, especially young preachers. They want to be, "unorthodox," as they call it. They want to change things, get us out of the traditional rut we are in. This is good to a degree. But if what we are teaching and practicing is according to truth, why change?

Is it scriptural to assemble together to worship God? The Book says that it is (Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42). When we assemble, is it right to sing praises unto God? The Book says that it is (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). When we assemble, is it right to pour out our heart in prayer to a loving Father? The Book says that is it (Acts 2:42). When we assemble, is it right to partake of the Lord's Supper to remember Christ's death, burial, and resurrection until He comes again? The Book says that it is (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7). When we assemble, is it right to give of our means as God has prospered us? The Book says that it is (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Now, my question is: Should a Christian be bored with doing just what the Lord asks of him? If what we are doing is right and good (scriptural) why is it boring? Just maybe our interest is not what it ought to be. We normally like to do what we are interested in. We can watch football over and over again, while they run the same plays, and not get bored with it. Why? Because we are interested in it. The denominational people have said that if we partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday it will become commonplace. But to the Christ, doing just what God says should never become commonplace.

The best solution I know to the problem is for you and me to go to the Word of God and really study it and determine what the truth is, then stick right with that truth and be enthusiastic about it. Let us have a burning zeal for God in our worship, and that

according to knowledge, and I just do not believe we will be bored. (*Broadmoor Beacon*, Mar. 8, 1976)

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## ***I'D RATHER BE A DOORKEEPER***

*Jesse Flowers*

*"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness"* (Psalm 84:10). The psalmist is declaring that the lowest station in connection with the Lord's house is better than the highest position among the ungodly of this world.

According to the Hebrew, "I would choose rather to stand (or sit) at the threshold..." This is a psalm of the sons of Korah, and the descendants of Korah *"were in charge of the work of the service, gatekeepers of the tabernacle. Their fathers had been keepers of the entrance to the camp of the LORD"* (I Chronicles 9:19). Thus the Korahites realized that God's doorstep was a greater, mightier dwelling place, than the greatest comforts and prestige the tents of the wicked had to offer.

So what application can we make to our lives from Psalm 84:10? If we are serving the Lord, it doesn't matter how menial we may view the task, it still is far greater in importance and honor than any position the world has to offer us. To bear burdens and open doors for the Lord is of more honor than to reign among the wicked.

We should say: "I would rather be an usher than dwell in the tents of wickedness." "I would rather be the one that cleans the building than dwell in the tents of wickedness." "I would rather prepare the Lord's Supper than dwell in the tents of wickedness." "I would rather greet the visitors than dwell in the tents of wickedness." "I would rather make copies of sermon tapes than dwell in the tents of wickedness." And the list goes on and on.

ANYTHING we do in service to our Lord is better and greater than ANYTHING this world has to offer. The pleasures of sin are for a season only (Hebrews 11:25). The world passes away, and the lust of it; but the one that doeth the will of God abides forever (I John 2:17). Let us look to serve our Lord in some capacity, and then rejoice that we were counted worthy of such an honor - even if the position is that of a doorkeeper!