

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

Plop, Pray, and Pay

A blogger named Thom Schultz describes what bothers and bores some people about public worship—they view it simply as a time to “plop, pray, and pay.” Why this view?

The Bible is not that person’s guide When Jesus was asked about public worship, He taught that the Father “is seeking” true worshipers---people who sincerely worship God the right way (Jn. 4:23-24). This true worship produces true joy and strength, not a feeling of “plop, pray, and pay.”

Or, the Bible is not the guide of that person’s church Sometimes this view of worship is the result of man-

made doctrines being added to God’s ways. People hear a demand for “tithes” but read Paul simply say to “give as he purposes in his heart” (2 Cor. 9:6; 1 Cor. 16:2). Worshiping according to the demands of man easily produces a “plop, pray, and pay” view because the meaning, joy, and strength God offers is only available by true worship (1 Kg. 12:28-33; Mt. 15:8-9; Col. 2:22-23).

The church of Christ in Quail Valley is seeking to learn and spread only the teaching and tradition given by God in Scripture--the only defense against *plop, pray, and pay*.

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Casual Atmosphere, Serious Faith

Slogans like this are common because our society focuses on personal comfort. This slogan contrasts *casual* and *serious*. The question this raises is not whether there is a dress code for public worship---there is not (though all dress must be proper, 1 Tim. 2:9-10). The question is---should the atmosphere and focus of public worship be casual or serious?

The answer is found by identifying the purposes of public worship---to please God first and stir up saints (Jn. 4:23; Heb. 10:24-25). Are these casual purposes and actions? If not, why promote a casual atmosphere? Let the atmosphere reflect the focus of pleasing God and stirring up the mind.

Some people view *serious* as boring (revealing a focus on pleasing self---“I want ___ when I worship!”). *Serious* is not emotionless but thoughtful, producing natural, genuine emotion. Thoughtful worship on each first day of the week produces joy and sorrow when saints break bread in memory of Jesus’ death and gratitude as we give something (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). Serious facts and serious minds produce what kind of atmosphere? Read your Bible or visit our assemblies for the purpose of worshiping God and find out.

Genderless Toy Sections at Target & American Tolerance

“Right now, our teams are working [to] phase out gender-based signage. . . In the Toys aisles, we’ll also remove reference to gender, including the use of pink, blue, yellow or green paper” <https://corporate.target.com/article/2015/08/gender-based-signs-corporate>

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Prov. 1:7)—even in gender! You thought it was obvious, but as you can see, even this knowledge is being rejected (evidenced by news stories about “genderless bathrooms”). Paul identifies how such basic knowledge is lost in Ephesians 4:18—darkness is the result of ignorance which is the result of blindness (a mind that ignores known truth, Matt. 13:15; Rom. 1:28).

Do differences matter? Of course they do, but have you noticed our society ignoring many differences in pursuit of toleration over truth? American tolerance means you ignore differences and avoid believing that someone is right and someone is wrong. Have you seen this same mindset in “American religion”?

A “pastor” said this in *Christianity Today* (June 2010, p38-40; a magazine begun by Billy Graham) about diverse teachings on divorce, eternal salvation security, second baptism of the Holy Spirit, and worship, “We accept the differences as a richness. It would be very boring if all the churches were the same. Imagine if God made just one flower; that would be boring.” Do differences matter? Did Jesus and His apostles praise different teachings on these topics? Their one message would produce the *same mind and the same judgment* (1 Cor. 1:10; 4:17), but people today thank God for many kinds of churches (which exist because of contradictory teachings). Churches today, like our society, pride themselves on how tolerant they are. People who ignore significant differences are part of the problem that aids the process of our society having toy departments and bathrooms that are “genderless.”

Before it is too late, pursue truth and do not tolerate sin.

*And they shall teach
My people the
difference between the
holy and the unholy,
and cause them to
discern between the
unclean and the clean.
(Ezek 44:23, NKJV)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. What are common causes of people who view worship as “plop, pray, and pay”? Do you ever feel like that about worship?
2. What are the primary purposes of public worship?
3. What did Paul say that helps us see how people get to the point of ignoring gender differences?
4. In what way(s), are American religious groups acting like American society??

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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