

**Our Plea; Part 3**  
**Return to Scriptural Worship**  
**John 4:23-24**  
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of returning to Scriptural Worship

Intro:

1. It goes without saying that we know there has been a lot of departures in the area of worship.
2. Today, we want to look at the importance of returning to scriptural worship.

I. What is common in many “worship” services today?

1. Children’s Bible hour (Children’s church)
  - a. Some are making it a practice to offer class for children at the same time as the worship service.
  - b. This is an example of dividing the assembly (**1 Cor 11:20, 14:23**); some are unable to worship while others are not. (unable to partake of the Lord’s supper, contribute, etc).
  - c. If you want a “children’s Bible hour” why not before or after worship services?
    1. The answer, because the true purpose of such is send “noisy, distracting children somewhere else so their parents can focus on worship”. So the real reason for such actions are almost always selfish.
2. Dividing the assembly for “small-groups”.
  - A. On the first day of the week we are to be gathered together. To be clear this is done when the congregation would normally meet for worship (**1 Cor 11:20**)
    - a. Who oversees these groups?
    - b. What if there is a problem?
    - c. What keeps groups from becoming “clichés”?
3. Choirs, Praise teams & solos
  - a. Is there a Biblical example of such being done in N.T. worship?
  - b. Is the congregational singing “so bad” that we require such?
  - c. Do we need these groups to entertain us at other times with their singing?
  - d. If someone has a talent for singing shouldn’t they be able to perform a solo for the congregation?
  - e. The answer to all of these questions is NO!
4. Of course there is the ever-present problem of those ADDING (because it is an addition, not an aide) mechanical instruments to their worship services.
  - a. **Col 3:16, Eph 5:19**
  - b. Many would be wise to remember that such instruments originated with David and not with God (**2 Chron 29:26-27, Neh 12:36, 1 Chron 23:5** “which I made”)

II. What are the dangers of such “worship”?

1. Sin (**1 Jn 3:4**)
2. Vain Worship (**Mk 7:6-9**)
3. Selfish Worship (**Isa 5:21**)

4. Eternal Separation from God because of such “worship”. (**Isa 59:2**)

### III. What is the answer?

#### A. Repent

1. This is always the first step (**Rev 2:5**)
2. Repentance takes place, then return to true worship.

#### B. Return to true scriptural worship (**Jn 4:23-24**)

1. There are 5 avenues of worship:
  - a. Preaching/teaching (**1 Cor 15:1**; 2 Tim 4:2)
  - b. Praise from the heart (**1 Cor 14:15**, Col 3:16, Eph 5:19)
  - c. Prayers (**Acts 2:42**)
  - d. Contribution (1 Cor 16:1-2; **2 Cor 9:6-8**)
  - e. The Lord’s supper (**1 Cor 11:23-26**)
2. All of these we have examples or commands to do.
  - a. Therefore, only these acts are acceptable to God in worship.
  - b. Only these were acceptable in the times of the Apostles and nothing has changed today.

#### Conc:

1. The only way to truly worship is to worship according to the scriptures.
2. Any worship not authorized by God is vain (useless) thus must be abandoned.
3. Let us never be so bold as to think we can worship God according to our standards and not God’s.

#### **Hear**

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

#### **Believe**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

#### **Repent**

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

#### **Confess**

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

#### **Be baptized**

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

### **Remain Faithful**

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.