

Series on the Whys of Worship – sermon 5 – 29/11/09 (am)

# **Why must we prepare for Public Worship?**

**Genesis 4:1-7**

*Theme: Christians must be intentional about coming to worship the Lord in spirit and truth.*

# A. Preparation for True Worship

(4:1-4a)

*...in the course of time* (4:3a) Cain and Abel brought offerings to Lord.

This phrase is significant as it suggests the brothers' actions occurred at *a time* God had appointed.

*How did Cain and Abel know about offerings and how and when to bring them?*

We may make two logical deductions in light of the phrase *in the course of time* :

**1. God had revealed to Adam and Eve what constituted acceptable worship.**

*God has revealed to us in the Bible how we are to worship Him acceptably.*

**2. Cain and Abel had been taught  
what constituted acceptable  
worship.**

Scripture urges that children be taught God's ways. *Cf.* Deut. 6:4-9;  
*Ps. 78:1-4; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4.*

*Christian parents must teach their  
children how to worship God.*

*Christian parents must teach:*

- *what worship is;*
- *how God expects His people to worship Him;*
- *how they, as covenant children, should participate in public worship.*

With their knowledge what did the brothers do?

They **prepared** to worship God.

Abel prepared well. Cain did not.

***Correct preparation for worship  
is important!***

# How should a Christian prepare for public worship?

- *Seek to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. Obedience!*
- *Be well rested!*
- *Remember what worship is.*

...

- *Remember that worship is about what you give, not what you get.*
- *Come to worship with the intention of worshipping God in spirit and truth.*
- *Christian parents should teach their children how to participate in public worship.*

*We must prepare for public worship to ensure that not only ourselves but also those we are responsible for will come to it with the intention of worshipping the Lord acceptably in spirit and truth.*

How did Abel and Cain participate in worship after preparing for it?

## **B. Participation in True Worship** (4:4b-7)

Abel worshipped the Lord in spirit and truth, *cf.* Heb. 11:4.

Cain did not.

*We must worship God in spirit and truth! Cf. John 4:23-24.*

# Conclusion

***Let us all:***

*take worship seriously;*

*prepare well for our public acts of  
worship;*

*participate in true worship;*

*always make it our goal to worship  
God in spirit and truth.*