

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

# Unacceptable Worship (PT. 1)

**WORSHIP** – Reverence toward a divine being or supernatural power. The human response to the self revelation of the triune God. This includes (1) divine initiation in which God reveals Himself, His purposes, and His will; (2) a spiritual and personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ on the part of the worshipper; and (3) a response by the worshipper of **adoration**, humility, submission, and obedience in God.

**MALACHI 1:6-14 NASB** – (6) " 'A son honors his father, and a servant his master Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?' (7) "You are presenting defiled food upon My altar But you say, 'How have we defiled You?' In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is to be despised.' (8) "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts. (9) "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts. (10) "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts, " nor will I accept an offering from you. (11) "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the LORD of hosts. (12) "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.' (13) "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is! And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD. (14) "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."

To worship is to reverence. To reverence is to respect. When we worship God, it is not to be at a level equivalent to how we respect man! Worship is not a noun, it is a verb. And worship is not about us, it is about God's almighty deeds of salvation, those deeds by which God reclaims the whole world for His eternal glory. From the reading of the passage above, we discover a worship unacceptable to God.

God is speaking to the priest or (the church), if you will. He is informing them that He is not at all pleased with their worship! We may each charge upon ourselves what is here charged upon the priests. Our **relation** to God, as our Father and Master, strongly obliges us to fear and honor Him, but they were so scornful that they derided reproof. Sinners ruin themselves by trying to baffle their convictions. (Those who live in careless neglect of holy ordinances, who attend service without reverence, and go from them under no concern, in effect say, the table of the Lord is contemptible.) They despised God's name in what they did. If we worship God ignorantly, and without understanding, we bring the blind for sacrifice; if we do it carelessly, if we are cold, dull, and dead in it, we bring the sick; if we rest in the bodily exercise, and do not make heart-work of it, we bring the lame; and if we suffer vain thoughts and distractions to lodge within us, we bring the torn. Is this not evil? Is it not a great affront to God, and a great wrong and injury to our own souls? A spiritual worship shall be established. Incense shall be offered to God's name, which signifies prayer and praise. And then and only then will we be worshipping the Father in Spirit and in truth. To demonstrate this in today's since, God does not accept our worship when we bring worldly habits before Him. (Examples): When we fornicate, cheat, steal, lie, demonstrate negative attitudes and at times we won't even speak to our fellow brother or sister in the fellowship, but we claim we are Holy!

This weekend, there will be over 120,000,000 American worshippers at an event called the Super Bowl. It is a worship service. People will gather in the sanctuary of their living room, around the altar of their television. Giving honor and reverence to a game and to a team of their preference. Oh! it will be a worship service because there will be undivided attention. There will be no sleeping and there will be no nodding. There will be total focus and what is interesting is that the worship service will last three hours and nobody is going to raise their hand to walk out early. Nobody is going to leave the service if it goes longer than expected or if it goes into overtime and the service goes on and on. Nobody is leaving until the benediction. Nobody is leaving until the game is over because 120,000,000 people or Americans have decided that this event is worthy. Nobody's going to be late. Nobody's going to be casual. They are going to commit themselves and if they need something to eat, while they are enjoying the super bowl, the fact that it is raining will become irrelevant to go out to the store to get what they need because it's part of their worship experience.

But I have one question prior to ending this meditation, what has "**Payton Manning**" done for you lately? What has "**Reggie Bush**" done for you lately? What has "**Indianapolis Colts or New Orleans Saints**" done for you lately? That's what I want to know or even God wants to know by hearing your answer! For "**I know**" somebody who woke you up this morning!

Allowed you to put clothes on your back! Money in your pocket! Car in your garage! Roof over your head! He deserves your undivided attention! He deserves your reverence! He's worthy, He's worthy! He ought to be praised! He ought to be adored! He ought to be glorified because He's awesome! He's a mighty God! He's a bridge over troubled water! He's more than you can ever need. He loves you! He died for you! He rose for you! Somebody ought to praise Him! Somebody ought to give Him glory! He deserves to be feared! He deserves to be **truly worshipped!**

### SCRIPTURE READING

JEREMIAH 6:16

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

There are some things money can't buy, like salvation.

