

BETHEL MATTERS

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Discerning the Essence vs. the Expression of Worship

One of the problems we sometimes have in church life is discerning between the essence of something versus its expression. In some ways, the King James Bible controversy falls into this category. The KJV is one expression of the essence of God's Word in Bible translation. When people make it the only one they are confusing the essence of God's Word (found in other faithful translations) with the expression of it (in the KJV). Another area of church life that we often make that mistake is in worship. We can easily confuse the essence of worship with the expression of worship.

When Reggie White was still living he gave a famous speech to the Wisconsin State Legislature. In the speech, he extolled various ethnic/racial groups for having certain strengths that add to our collective enrichment. He said that African-Americans are particularly good at worship because of the exuberant, expressive style of black worship. The speech was not well-received partly because of errors like this that confused the essence of something with its expression.

I have run into this over the years in conversations with people. One friend told me about visiting a church where he found the sermon to be particularly moving. But he was disappointed in the response of the congregation. He said to me (and I quote), *They should have been on their feet clapping*. But we all know that clapping can become a substitute for actually changing. Which is better, to clap or to change? Clearly clapping cannot be the essence of what it means to respond to a powerful sermon. It may be appropriate at times (or maybe not), but one cannot judge a congregation by the absence of clapping.

This is really quite important because we all tend to elevate what we prefer over the essence of what something really is. Once we do that we may miss out entirely on what we should be doing in favor of a focus on externals. Those insisting on the KJV are so caught up by it that it makes their lives and churches unhealthy. They are so judgmental they fail to obey the very Bible they are jealously attempting to protect.

So, what is the essence of worship? The great Protestant Reformer John Calvin wrote, *Lawful worship consists in obedience alone*. A more modern-day statement comes from Prof. D. A. Carson: *Our generation desperately needs to connect praise with righteousness, worship with obedience, and the Lord's response with a clean heart*. What these gifted teachers are saying is what the Bible says itself.

And Samuel said [to King Saul], Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Saul's fundamental error was that he thought he could offer God the expression of worship rather than the essence of worship. We can fall into that trap too. Various styles of worship are acceptable to God. Most of us will gravitate toward either the quiet or the more exuberant. Either is okay. What is not okay is worshiping without obedience – substituting the expression of worship for its essence. In the end, that is not to worship at all.

Your friend, learning about worship,
Pastor Brian (:-)).

From the Family Life Pastor:

Various Thoughts:

Thank you to all who took the time to send me birthday cards or greetings on Facebook or in person – I was truly overwhelmed with the outpouring of love that I received! God is Good!!!

As I write this, this coming Sunday is our annual outdoor service. Julie Motta has poured a lot of time and effort into preparing for this service, and we pray that it will be a blessing to all who attend. The outdoor service has been going on for quite a few years now, and each time there have been some wonderful blessings. We have a couple of baptisms, and Pastor Brian will bring a message. I am looking forward to being a part of this service this year.

Recently I have been thinking about where we as a country are heading. When Ann & I were visiting Pastor Allan & Janet Borrett back in February, Pastor Allan gave me a book of his written by Dr. David Jeremiah titled “*I Never Thought I’d See the Day*”. In the book are several issues that he deals with, including *When Atheists Would Be Angry, When Christians Wouldn’t Know They Were in a War, When Jesus Would Be So Profaned, When Marriage Would be Obsolete, When Morality Would Be in Free Fall, When the Bible Would be Marginalized, When the Church Would be Marginalized, When the Church Would be Irrelevant, When a Muslim State Could Intimidate the World, When America Would Turn Her Back on Israel, When Changing Your Mind Could Save Your Life* - When I first got the book, I glanced at it and thought that it was interesting, but as I started reading some of it recently, I actually jumped to the Bible being Marginalized chapter – As I read it, I was reminded of people who have been viewed as Christian leaders who have questioned the truth, relevance, and authenticity and application of the Word of God in blatant ways in the past few years. Again, notice that I said Christian leaders – some saying that the Bible is irrelevant, or not truly the Word of God, some minimizing who Jesus is, and many other things that have been the solid rock of our faith.

This made me think of 2 Timothy 4:3 (ESV) – “*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions*”. We must make sure that we don’t become those who attend the “Church of What’s happening now” and not a church that is biblically sound and standing only on the Word of God. If our faith is not built on the Word of God, then we will do what Paul says in verse 4 of 2 Timothy 4 – “*Will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths*”.

In 1 Timothy 1:3-4 (NIV) “*so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work – which is by faith*”. We have been given a huge responsibility – we are to study the Word of God, Accept it by Faith, and then to teach and live it before others so that they may see and be drawn to the saving Grace of God! The problem is that we all too often spend our time on differences rather than on the Solid Rock of our faith, God and His Word!

This lack of “knowledge” about the Word of God has been a problem for many generations – in Hosea 4:6 we read this: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children*”. This lack of knowledge is a condemnation to those who should have had the knowledge and failed to live and obey it. If that was true for them it is true for us. We must gain knowledge of Who God is and what He desires from us.

I believe that in order to do this, we must begin with humility – 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV) says – “*If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land*”. If then, we who say we are “One Nation Under God” are called by His name – we too must humble ourselves and pray and seek Him and turn from our wicked ways! It begins with us as individuals!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Hank

Prayer Chain & Official Notices

bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

Items for the September Issue
of Bethel Matters
are due in the office
by, Saturday, August 19th

Items for the Happenings
are due in the office
by Wednesday noon.

Have you visited our Bethel Website?
Check it Out at:
www.bethelmarquette.com
Audio Sermons are posted weekly
along with items of interest,
Bethel Matters, Calendar,
and Happenings.



Youth Events & Activities

Junior High Youth Group
6th - 8th Graders
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Senior High Youth Group
9th - 12th Graders
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries
1-330-550-0141
christopher.mauser@gmail.com

Happy August Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Kathy Johnson, Abbie Tireman, Bob Nelson
2. Spencer & Jean Johnson (A)
3. Jim Noe
4. Dan & Kathy Johnson (A),
Dave & JoAnn Buhl (A)
5. Troy & Nicole Steppke (A)
7. Walt Anderson
8. Drew & Amy Quinn
9. Kathy Morabito, Sue Goodwin
10. Cliff & Eleanor Maier (A),
Jim & Laurel Perko (A)
Nathan & Brooke Loewen (A)
12. Rebekah Mackey
13. Jeff Millin, Caden Steede
16. Julie Glover, Judy Larson
17. Dan & Becky Nelson (A)
18. Tim Larson, Walley & Karen Helmila (A)
David & Mandy Erickson (A)
19. Carrie Brandt, Walt & Chris Anderson (A)
20. Holly Glover, Jordan Smith, Annette Brown
22. Don & Karla Salo (A)
23. John Morabito
25. Brian Steede
27. Andy & Beth Larsen (A)
28. Adelin Deering
29. Kurt & Shelley Janofski (A)
30. Shelley Janofski, Karl Thomsen
31. Jeff MacDonald, Adam Smith, Stacy Giroux

Congratulations To:

Josh & Juliana Vissering on their recent wedding.

Dan & Karen Freeborn on the July 13th birth of their son, Rhett Stuart. He weighed in at 9 lbs 11 ozs. and was 19.5 inches long.

Brianna Steede and Soccer Teammates on the League Championship win in overtime for U-15 coed team.

Sue Sharrett on her retirement from Father Marquette School.

Our Sympathy To:

Paul & Ronne Dionne following the July 1st death of Paul's brother, Gary. The funeral was held in Marquette.

Dave & Alma Thomas following the recent death of Alma's brother-in-law. The funeral was held in Ohio.

Jeanne Pelto and Carrie Brandt following the July 21st death of their nephew/cousin Timothy Pelto. The funeral was held in Escanaba.

Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

For Ladies

Studies will begin again in the September.

Summer/ABF Mix-Ups Info

The last day for Summer Mix-Ups is Sunday, August 13th. So Adult Bible Fellowships will start up again on the 20th. We trust you have enjoyed the mix-ups.

From the Mailbox:

Dear Staff & Friends at Bethel Baptist,

Thank you for putting together such a great VBS! Last year, my girls just loved Ocean Commotion. All throughout the year they asked when VBS would start again. The year, they had tons of fun at Operation Arctic. Everyone was friendly and welcoming! I know it is a huge undertaking for your staff and volunteers to prepare and coordinate a week of VBS and we just really appreciate what you do. Our church doesn't currently offer a VBS program so it's really nice to be able to join yours. If you need additional volunteers next year, let me know. Thank you again, and God Bless!

Mary Holsworth

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and good wishes as we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. We has a few days away together with our children and their families. The was special because of all the changes in the six adults schedules of work, we had a great time together.

God is good as He gives us strength to continue on by His love for us. He forgives us in our mess-ups when we ask for forgiveness.

Thank you again. We appreciate you.

Dave & Alma Thomas

Primetimers ABF Activity

Wednesday, August 16th , 5:00 PM

Pot Luck

at Cliff & Eleanor Maier's
1903 Mildred, MQT
Plan to eat at 5:30 PM.

Bring a dish of food to share.
Table Service & Beverages Provided.

Fall Fest and
Everyday Evangelism (EE)

Tis that time of the year again. **Fall Fest** at NMU will happen on **Monday, August 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** This is an opportunity for us to obtain leads for the EE ministry. In recent years we have obtained over 200 leads from NMU students who indicated that they are interested in or maybe interested in having a discussion about spiritual matters. (Students complete a questionnaire before throwing darts to possibly win a free soda or water.) EE teams will attempt to visit as many of these students as possible during the coming two EE

semesters. One begins in September; the other in January.

We need many helpers for Fall Fest. People to help set up, to hand out drinks, pick up darts, visit with folks, hand out questionnaires, etc. You can help us for the whole four hours, one hour, two or three hours, whatever fits your schedule. No experience necessary--just a happy, smiling face. If you can help please contact Cliff or Eleanor Maier.

Also now is the time to begin praying about possible involvement in the **Everyday Evangelism seminar** that will be **beginning in September.** This training is designed to help participants become better equipped to share our wonderful Gospel of salvation with those who still are not bound for heaven.

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Recipe Corner:

Blueberry Crunch Coffee Cake

- Jane Noe



Mix Together:

Cream:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 c. flour | 3/4 s. sugar |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 1/4 c. shortening |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 egg |

Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternating with 1/2 c. milk. Fold in 2 c. fresh blueberries.

Pour in 8 or 9 inch square pan. 

Topping: (you can make more topping)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1/2 c. sugar | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| 1/3 c. flour | 1/4 c. soft butter |

Bake at 375°, 35-40 minutes.

Outdoor Service, Baptisms, & Picnic

Sunday, August 27th, Presque Isle Park

Pray for great weather.

10:00 AM
Worship Service
at the Band Shell



11:30 AM
Baptisms
in Lake Superior

12:00 Noon
Picnic
at the Pavilion



Please Bring

- last names A-R a large salad
- last names S-Z a large dessert

Provided

- brats, chicken strips, hot dogs
- condiments, beverages, table service
- lawn chair