

TAKE SOME IRONS OUT OF THE FIRE!

Greg Gwin

We have a common idiom that describes someone who has ‘too many irons in the fire’. The reference is to a blacksmith who is trying to work several items in the fire of his forge. In fact, he has too many objects in the fire and some will ruin before he is able to do his necessary work. Today, while there aren’t many blacksmiths around, we still use the expression to describe someone who is trying to juggle too many responsibilities and activities. The end result is that some things don’t get done as they should.

Christians must be careful about having ‘too many irons in the fire’. Jobs, careers, educational pursuits, hobbies, recreation, kid’s activities, various programs, etc., all have the potential to keep us so busy that we allow spiritual things to get crowded off (or at least seriously downgraded on) our list of priorities. We cannot afford to let this happen.

In Matthew 24:37ff, Jesus said, “As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” People were, of course, very wicked in that time. But look at the list of things they were doing. Note that not all of them were necessarily sinful. But, clearly, they had excluded God from all their thoughts and plans. They had even ignored the warnings that Noah was preaching (2 Peter 2:5). They were just too busy for God – and that, friends, is TOO busy!

So, look at your schedule again. Re-evaluate your commitments and activities. Are you crowding God out of the top spot? If so, you need to ‘take some irons out of the fire’. Think! -

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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TYPES OF WORSHIP

Michael Pickford

Worship is obviously a prominent theme in scripture, and the bible speaks of various types of worship, some acceptable, some not. Let’s consider seven types of worship...

Angel Worship. Paul condemned angel worship (Col. 2:18) and an angel refused to accept John’s worship (Rev. 22:8). We are to worship God (Rev 22:9; Mtt 4:10).

Man Worship. Peter made it clear that man is not to be worshipped (Acts 10:25-26). The Pope of Catholicism accepts worship, the kissing of his ring, etc. God is not pleased with such.

Idol Worship. Idol worship is often condemned in the Bible, an idol is nothing but man’s invention. There is only one true God and it is Him alone we are to worship (1 Cor. 8:5-6). Catholicism has many idols in their worship, including their idolizing of Mary and other “Saints.” They sin and are guilty of idol worship when they pray to and through Mary.

Vain Worship. Worship that is conducted according to man-made traditions and commandments are “Vain” (Matt 15:8-9). That is, it is useless, worthless, and condemned. All worship must be conducted according to Christ’s direction from his Gospel (Col. 3:17).

Will Worship. Or “Self imposed” worship (Col. 2:23). The Greek here indicates the idea of man worshipped according to his own ideas and designs. Many today worship God in various different ways that are not found in the New Testament, yet they justify it by saying they are at least sincere, or that it makes them feel spiritual, or that it’s so beautiful surely God wouldn’t mind. But has wants us worshipping Him only as he directs. God has not given man the right to decide how he will worship God.

True Worship. True worship is that which is done according to truth, patterned after God’s word (Jn 4:23-24; Jn 17:17). Any other worship, regardless of how lovely and sincere, will be rejected (2 Jn 9). Nadab and abihu worshipped God, but it was not according to the way God specified, so it was rejected and they were struck dead (Lev 10:1-3).

Sincere Worship. Not only must our worship be according to God’s word, it must be in spirit, that is, sincere (Jn 4:23-24). Our hearts and minds must be focused on each act of worship as we participate (Eph 5:19; 1 Cor 11:26-28; Acts 17:11). 🔍

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THREE ANSWERS TO ONE QUESTION

Robert F. Turner

Could one question be given three differing answers, and all answers be correct? Seems unlikely doesn't it? Yet this is the case in the N.T. book of Acts when the question, "What must I do?" (to be saved) is asked.

The expressed answer given to the Philippian jailer was "Believe!" (See Acts 16:25-34 for full account.) Some insist that this expressed reply is complete, and hence salvation is by faith only. However, a consideration of the expressed replies given this question on other occasions will show the fallacy of such reasoning.

When some of the Pentecost multitude asked, "What shall we do?" they were told, "Repent, and be baptized." (See Acts 2:6-38 for details.) And when Saul asked what to do he was directed to Ananias, who told him to "Arise, and be, baptized." (See Acts 9:1-18; 22:6-16 for the record.)

If only the expressed reply is to be considered we would have to conclude that the jailer was saved by faith alone, and that those on Pentecost were saved by repentance and baptism (i.e., without any faith) and that Saul was saved by baptism alone -- without either faith or repentance. Of course none of these conclusions are valid.

Why Did The Answers Differ?

Because the questions were asked by people in different circumstances. A man in Burnet, Texas, may ask "how far is it to San Antonio?" and be told, "100 miles." In Marble Falls this question would get a different answer. And in Blanco, the same question would get a third, and different answer. Yet all would be part of one great truth.

There is no indication that the Philippian jailer had either knowledge or faith in the Christian system; so he was told to believe, and then "they spake unto him the word of the Lord." He repented, as indicated by washing their stripes; and he was baptized, as stated in Acts 16:38. Thus he truly believed (vs. 34). But those on Pentecost heard the preaching of Christ before they asked their question. The preaching "pricked their hearts;" i.e., they believed. Then they were told repent and be baptized." And Saul (later called Paul) had already believed, and had spent three days penitently praying, when he was told, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins."

Where Are You?

Your status or condition before God must be considered in answering your question, "What must I do?" The Lord will save "all who will obey" (Heb. 5:9) and has given one gospel to all (Gal. 1:8; Rom. 2:11). Have you proven your faith by full and complete obedience to His will? -

CONTENTMENT

Kyle Campbell

Have you ever noticed how the world promotes dissatisfaction? We are constantly bombarded with something newer and better that will make our lives complete once we buy it.

If we listen to the world, we will always be comparing the lifestyles and possessions of others with our own, and we will always be dissatisfied. Paul had enjoyed the benefits and pleasures of life, yet he could give them all up and still be filled with the joy of the Lord. His contentment did not depend on his environment but on his obedience to Christ (Philippians 4:11).

Contentment frees you to enjoy every the good God has given you (James 1:17). Work hard to be grateful for all that God has given you. -

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd
Reading: Malachi 3:16-18
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

***Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!***