

He has come to worship God. He makes allowances for human frailty on the part of the leaders in worship, appreciates their sincere efforts, and refuses to let their mistakes keep him from his purpose.

The first man is to be pitied. His ability to worship is dependent on the ability of the leaders in the worship period. He comes to worship but spends the hour criticizing. He blames others for that which is really his own problem. Consequently, his problem with worship becomes a problem also with his brethren; but one cannot have a problem with his worship and his brethren without also having a problem in his relationship with God.

The second man, by maintaining a positive attitude toward his brethren, even when they make mistakes, is able to worship acceptably and is drawn closer to God by his worship.

We are not condoning sloppily conducted worship periods. We each should strive to bring our best before God. Yes, leaders in worship should seek to avoid mistakes and to do their work effectively. But acceptable worship depends far more on the heart and attitude of the worshipper than on the abilities of leaders. Our first man may point the finger at others, but his real need is a total change of attitude within himself.

Rickie Jenkins (Campbell Road church of Christ Facebook Page)

**Reminder:**

**Ladies Class meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 10am.**

## **Marietta church of Christ**

8150 Driggers St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32220

### **Times of Worship**

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

[www.mariettacoc.com](http://www.mariettacoc.com)



### **Symbolism**

You don't need me to tell you that symbolism plays a great deal of significance throughout the world and throughout history. Symbols are found from everyday locations such as stop signs and fire alarms to more specific symbols, like a biohazard warning or even national flags. Just seeing these symbols can conjure up their meaning and warnings if applicable, all without a single word. It is no surprise then that the Bible also has many symbols that likewise instill memories, lessons and emotions without a single word.

Let us begin with the rainbow. Modern society has desecrated this symbol of God and tried to make it represent the LGBT group, which is completely devoted to violating God's commands for the natural order. But let us not forget the original, God assigned meaning of the rainbow was to be a promise between God and man that He will never again destroy the whole Earth with a flood. It is small wonder then that rainbows appear after storms. Speaking as a Floridian who has been through a few hurricanes, I can say that God's rainbow is a welcome reminder of His promise. An additional meaning one could assign to the rainbow is that God's people will endure through the trials, upheld by His Hand, and will be able to see His blessings that always follow. The sinful people of the old world that was destroyed never saw a rainbow, and never saw God's deliverance and blessing, although they had their chance to repent and be saved too. Noah and his family were found to be faithful however, and their obedience led God to preserve them through a divine punishment of Earth-changing proportions. ...

Those who now seek to desecrate this God-given symbol would do well to consider the nature of the rainbow, and perhaps not use it as a symbol of their deviancy.

Another well known symbol that even secularists recognize is that of the Stone Tablets and the Ark of the Covenant. The Stone Tablets which contained the Ten Commandments are perhaps one of the most iconic symbols from the Bible, second only to the Cross itself (more on that soon). And the Ark of the Covenant was another well known symbol that even Israel wielded like a weapon at time through their conquests and wars. Whether it was crossing the Jordan River to enter the promised land, marching around the walls of Jericho or brought forth against the Philistines as a "Secret weapon" of sorts, the Israelites quite enjoyed this symbol of their covenant with God. Yet it seems sometimes they missed the point. In 1 Samuel 4:3, the Israelites intended to use the Ark as an instrument of war, no doubt hoping to pull off a similar victory as they did in Jericho. Yet I believe the Israelites were neglectful of what truly brought them victory there: their obedience to God's battle plan. Yes, God commanded them to build the Ark. Yes, God ordered it to be marched into battles. But it was their obedience to God, not the Ark itself that saved them. A similar comparison is baptism. It's not the water itself that saves us, but our obedience to God's prescribed manner of achieving salvation. Much like marching the Ark around Jericho at God's command brought the Israelites victory, so too does being fully immersed in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bring us victory over sin and darkness.

Of course the most famous symbol of all from the Bible is the cross itself. Countless pieces of art depict this scene through the ages. It was often used as a decoration on armor, tabards and shields during the middle ages. It is engraved on doors, on Bibles, it is on bumper stickers, some churches put 1 or 3 crosses on their property, and countless more examples exist. The cross is one of the most recognizable symbols in the entire world, and you would be hard-pressed to find someone unfamiliar with it. In the Roman times, it represented an extremely painful execution reserved for the worst society had to offer. ...

But nowadays, the cross is seen as a symbol of healing, of hope, of eternal life, of Christianity, and of Christ Himself. I know that in our post Catholic Crusade world the idea of using the Cross is somewhat troublesome. But recall what Paul said in Galatians 6:14. He boasted in the Cross of Jesus. Also recall what Jesus Himself said in John 12:32-33. We should not make the Cross an idol like denominations do, but we should not be scared to bear forth our Lord's standard. After all, He has to be lifted up to draw all people to Himself.

Written by: Daniel Young

### **Which One Am I?**

Worship under the best conditions can sometimes be difficult. Distractions, human errors, and sometimes funny situations can occur to take one's attention away from the Lord. Attitudes, however, can prove to be a major factor in acceptable (or non-acceptable) worship. For instance...

Consider, two men sincerely try to worship. The first man, though, is frustrated throughout. His frustration begins with the opening announcements when the man in charge takes ten minutes to say what any normal man can say in three. Then the song leader adds to his frustrations by selecting a song he's sure contains an unscriptural phrase. The man who presides at the table doesn't help when he uses the term "loaf" instead of "bread", and then the man who is called on to give thanks for the bread, gives thanks for everything but the bread. Even the preacher makes a major contribution by totally misapplying a passage of scripture ("He probably didn't spend enough time on that one," the man thinks). When the worship period is finally dismissed, he tries to share his frustrations with those around him, but no one seems to care.

The second man observes many of the mistakes the first man observes. In fact, without fanfare he just doesn't sing the questionable phrase in the song and he silently thanks God for the bread when he realizes the leader's failure to do so. Even while observing those mistakes, he focuses attention on the good sentiments of the songs that are used, and on the death of the Savior during the Lord's supper. He appreciates the good thoughts presented in the lesson. (Continued on Back...)