

# 1: Bible



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## Part 3: Worship

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: This sermon is **Part 3 of The Christian Engine**. So far, we have:

- Compared the *four-stroke internal combustion engine* with the *five-stroke Christian engine*.
- Focused on the first stroke of the CE, *which is the Bible*. We learned ♦what it is, ♦why it should be important, and ♦how we should make use of it.
- Focused on the second stroke of the CE, *which is prayer*. We learned ♦what prayer is, ♦key factors to have in place when we pray, ♦why we should pray, ♦the significance of prayer for Jesus, and ♦the amazing power of prayer.
- Talked about **three vital steps** to BENEFIT: ➡tell me, ➡teach me, and ➡involve me; **all three are essential!**

If you missed the last two Wednesday sermons, *please watch, listen, or read to benefit!*

1. **Secret Worship Survey Results:** *Only 33 of 87 responded.*
  - a. **What is the main reason why you attend worship?** The options: ♦to give or ♦to get. **19** marked both; **12** marked to get; and **2** marked to give.
    - i. Let's think about the term "worship": It means to "bow down" – something we do *to show great respect*, and to "adore" – because of what God is: *eternal, unchangeable, almighty, all-knowing, holy, just, faithful, good, merciful, and gracious*.<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. Get versus give: Both are important *but GET is MORE IMPORTANT!* **God** WILL be okay – *if we do not give*, but **we** WILL NOT be okay – *if we do not get the gifts God is offering to us when we attend worship*. See below for some details.
  - b. **What do you give – when you attend worship?** The choices were ♦respect, ♦thanks, ♦prayer, and ♦money. **Most** marked all four; **some** marked only thanks and/or prayer. *All four are Biblical and best:*
    - i. Respect – See above.
    - ii. Thanks – Every good thing we have is ultimately from God, our Father (see [James 1:17](#)).
    - iii. Prayer – See last week's sermon on prayer.
    - iv. Money – "[A tithe of everything... belongs to the LORD](#)" ([Lev. 27:30 NIV](#)). We ♦acknowledge, ♦thank, and ♦honor God when we give 10% and keep 90%.
  - c. **What do you get – when you attend worship?** The choices were ♦truth, ♦forgiveness, ♦peace, and ♦guidance. **Almost everyone** marked all four; **some** marked only 1 or 2 or 3 of the 4. *All four are important:*

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<sup>1</sup> An Explanation of the Small Catechism, 1991 CPH, 105-107.

- i. Truth – Sets us free from our sins, which were eternally condemning us ([John 8:31-32](#)).
- ii. Forgiveness – When we are clothed in Jesus’ righteousness ([Gal. 3:27](#)), *then we have God’s forgiveness!* But since we keep falling into sin, *we keep needing assurance that we are forgiven.* During our services, *we are being assured through the* ♦absolution, ♦invocation, ♦hymns, ♦Scripture readings, ♦sermon, ♦creed, and ♦Lord’s Supper!
- iii. Peace – There are various aspects, *for example*:
  1. **Peace between us and God through Jesus:** Due to original sin, *we were all opposed to God.* But God has bought us back (redeemed us) through Jesus ([Titus 3:5](#)—Baptism; [James 1:18](#)—Bible)!
  2. **Peace about our health:** It is good to try to be healthy through our ♦eating, ♦exercising, and – *as we get older* – ♦regular checkups. But, *for the health issues that are out of our control*, we know God is in control – *so we are at peace!*
  3. **Peace about world events:** ♦War, ♦covid, ♦communism, ♦supply chain issues, ♦economic downturns, ♦etc. We hear about such things and should pray, but we are also at peace – *because the Almighty God is in control!*
- iv. Guidance – In today’s world, we are receiving guidance from many sources: ♦some is good, ♦some is deceptive – *appearing good, but bad*, and ♦some is openly evil. The BEST guidance is from God’s word, *so let us learn it and apply it!*
- d. How can we make Bethlehem more desirable for visitors? **17** responded, these are some examples:

◆Worshippers should identify new people and personally welcome them; ◆Engage visitors more after the service, ask why they came; ◆Each member invite friends; ◆Less liturgy; ◆Name tags; ◆TY cards for visiting; ◆Use the hymnal for DS; and ◆Stay online.

- e. **How can we make our church better?** 18 responded, these are some examples: ◆Use the service from the hymnal; ◆Encourage a fast to put our focus on others; ◆Keep it warmer; ◆Less Law, more Gospel—uplifting; ◆More fellowship time; ◆More singing; ◆Encourage participation; ◆Get involved in the community—shovel a sidewalk, mow a lawn; and ◆Have small group studies for men/women. **Note**: Thanks for responding; *I heard you and will try to make things better for everyone.*

2. **The Christian Engine**: Are you growing in understanding the function of the CE? When we believe in the heart; *then we witness to others in word and deed!* Then, in connection with those receiving our witness:

- a. We dig into the Bible to find answers!
- b. We pray for their understanding and repentance!
- c. We invite to worship – to get & give many things!
- d. We invite to fellowship – to get & give encouragement!

*As they know and grow in Christ, they should keep moving through the same five strokes of The Christian Engine.*

**Let Us Pray**: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, since You are SO GREAT and we need what You are freely offering SO MUCH, move us to faithfully attend and invite others!

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