

Is worship about man's convenience?

Is worship to God about man's convenience? Certainly not. The question itself is rhetorical because worship to God is to God. It is all about Jehovah. Yet in our modern times of trying to catch and to keep man's attention on spiritual things human wisdom has resorted to tactics that please people, that gratify fleshly appetites.

In the days of Nehemiah and Ezra, a large assembly gathered to hear the reading of the book of the law of Moses (Nehemiah 8:1-9). When Ezra the priest opened the book to read, all the people stood up, and the reading lasted from early morning until midday. All remained attentive to both the reading and the explanation of the law. When the people heard the words of the law, they wept. That day was a holy day, a sober day, a day of worshipping the LORD. Were the spiritual leaders and the congregation concerned or focused upon the comfort, the ease or the favorableness to the attendees? No. They were there to hear and honor God.

God seeks true worshippers who worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23). Twenty-first century Christians in the USA assemble in climate controlled buildings on padded seating with indoor plumbing nearby for a timed period. The expediency of a place of assembly is authorized in the gospel by commandments of the Lord to worship, to edify, to teach and to remember (cf. Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 11:26; etc.). But what if it was not convenient or comfortable for you to assemble with faithful Christians, would you stand half the day to hear God's law read and explained? Or what about a time not too far in the distant past when saints sat on wooden benches with no air conditioning fanning the gnats away in dim lighting – would you still love God, the truth and the church enough to assemble to worship in spite of all the inconveniences?

Blinded by the cultural norm, many people, if not most, need to be rebooted, reprogrammed spiritually. Although people are able to spend hours engaged in hobbies, in listening and watching worldly interests and entertainments, they want spiritual teaching to come like news flashes because they have trained their attention span on other matters. It is not that they cannot be attentive at all. Just watch and listen to people engrossed in temporal things that they care about. They also expect worship to be entertaining and at times even sensational. And literally, many adults cannot devote a couple hours in reverent activities without bringing a cup of coffee and a snack because their appetites are not “for the food that endures to eternal life” (John 6:27). Many modern places of worship are not about God but about man being conveniently gratified. Thus, in vain do they worship God.