What Is Our Focus in Worship?

Text: Acts 20:7

Introduction: SELF

1. For many, the focus of worship is own self.
2. This was the focus of the Pharisee in Jesus' parable (Luke 18:9-14).
   a. There is a good focus on self – the publican sought mercy.
   b. There is a bad focus on self – the Pharisee showed pride and hypocrisy.
3. When our worship is focused on self, we fall short…
   a. In giving God what He deserves.
   b. In giving our brethren what they need.
4. Instead, what should be our focus when we worship?

I. SCRIPTURE (Luke 4:16-21)

A. Jesus' focus was on reading and properly explaining the words of Scripture.
B. He told the truth about the meaning of the passage that He read.
   1. He did not tell people what they wanted to hear.
   2. He did not twist the Scripture to appease the conscience of man.
   3. He did not hide an unpopular and unwanted message.
C. Many come to worship to hear a message that scratches their itching ears (cf. 2 Timothy 4:1-4).
   1. They do not want to be confronted with the truth about sin.
   2. They do not want to be told that things are unacceptable to God.
D. Still, the Truth must be proclaimed!
E. Our worship must focus on Scripture.

II. SAVIOR (Acts 20:7)

A. Paul also focused on Scripture in worship, for he preached until midnight.
B. However, the disciples came together to break bread.
   1. This is a reference to partaking of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19).
   2. It stands as a synecdoche for all of worship – each act is important (cf. Acts 2:42.
   3. Yet, New Testament worship is centered on the sacrifice of Jesus.
      a. To praise Him with song.
      b. To approach Him through prayer.
      c. To hear Him through preaching.
      d. To honor Him by giving.
      e. To remember Him in communion.
C. When the focus is on the Savior, worship will be:
   1. Reverential
   2. Joyful
   3. Enthusiastic
   4. Scriptural
D. Our worship must focus on the Savior.

III. SACRIFICE (Genesis 22:1-14)

A. When Abraham was told by God to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, he said, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship" (22:5).

B. Abraham understood that worship involved sacrifice – and that is where his mind was focused.

C. We must be sacrificial in our worship.

1. To praise powerfully (Hebrews 13:15)
2. To contribute cheerfully (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)
3. To provoke persuasively (Hebrews 10:24-25)

D. Our worship must focus on sacrifice.

Conclusion:

1. The beauty of true worship is that by focusing on the right things – Scripture, the Savior, and sacrifice – one will also take care of self.
2. What is your focus in worship?