

The Worship of Abraham By Trey Sullins

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17). This passage defines a simple principle that should guide the life of Christians. We are to be the people of God who seek His authority for everything that we do! One area of life where this is important is our worship to God; our worship must be completely done in the ways God authorizes. In the Old Testament, Abraham shows us exactly what this life looks like. We, as Christians, must understand what true worship is so we can offer our own true worship to God.

Abraham shows us that our worship must be based upon God. This means that worship should be not only directly by God but done exactly as commanded by God. In Genesis 22:1-3, Abraham was commanded by God to head out to the land of Moriah and worship God by sacrificing his only son. At first glance this seems much too harsh towards Abraham and unlike God to require such a thing; However, to Abraham the only thing that mattered was doing whatever God told him to do. Later in Genesis 22:11-13, the Bible shows that this whole event was a test from God which Abraham passed perfectly. When it comes to our worship, we ought to be like Abraham. It does not matter what we might think about God’s commands, but it only matters that we obey them with the proper attitude.

Abraham also shows us that worship requires action. Notice Abraham’s actions right after God calls on him: “Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him” (Genesis 22:3). In order for Abraham to properly worship God he had to do something. The religious world today has become more and more focused on convenience and ease. Coffee shops, drive through worship, and online worship have become common; these additions shift the focus away from worshipping and serving God to enjoyment and relaxation. In the same way that Abraham could not just sit at home in his easy chair and worship God, neither can we!

Abraham’s worship came with a cost as well. At first, in Genesis 22:1-3, Abraham thought the cost of this worship was traveling, preparing, setting aside his own desires, and taking the life of his son. With all of this in mind Abraham was fully committed to heading out to worship God. The worship of God’s people is something that must be done at a cost to the worshipper. We must be giving our time, energy, money, and life to God. It is important also to notice how these costs did not affect Abraham’s worship in any way. He did not try to spend less time or offer less but only did exactly as God had commanded. We must mirror this with our worship as well and it should not be a bother for us to give up things for our God. If He created us and gave up His Son for us, then we can certainly give for Him too!

Surveying the worship of Abraham even from this one account proves just how obedient and faithful he really was. His worship was based on God with great actions that came at a cost to him, but still he did everything he could to worship the Almighty. Let us all examine our worship everyday and make sure that it matches that excellent pattern set forth by Abraham and so many

faithful people in the Bible. God has called on us to worship so will we say, “here I am” (Genesis 22:1)?