

# COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Focus on God's Word Find the Truth Follow the Lord



Sunday Worship Assembly 9:30 AM  
Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages) 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM  
Wednesday Bible Classes (All Ages) 7:00 PM



## The Correspondent

Vol. 52 No. 38

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth  
1 Thessalonians 1:8

September 22, 2024

### Worship of Entertainment

- Bob Prichard

There is no doubt that the man we know as Neil Postman described serious problems in modern culture in his insightful 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. His thesis was that public discourse has been reshaped to such an extent by television and entertainment that thoughtful discourse is missing. Show business hype has affected advertising, politics, and religion. Postman's conclusion is that none of these changes have made for improvement.

In our entertainment-oriented culture, many churches find themselves trying to out do themselves with more and more elaborate additions to worship.



What began as special music by a choir becomes a full orchestra with professional soloists. A dramatic reading necessitates a full Broadway stage production. And as long as those who come to worship enjoy what is offered, anything goes. The expectation is that sermons will be shorter, wittier, and more uplifting. Anything in worship that cannot be "jazzed up" must be abandoned as boring-and there is nothing worse than being boring, we are led to believe.

The problem with this entertainment orientation is that the very object of worship is forgotten. God is the audience in worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that ignorant worship was unacceptable to God, even though it may have been sincere or enjoyable. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). To worship God in spirit and truth means that worship must be from the heart, not just outward acts, and that it must be done in exact obedience to God's commands. The worship must be directed to Him, not to the whims of the worshippers.

God's regulations for worship as set out in the New Testament are neither boring nor out of date. They are God-centered, while entertainment is man-centered. *Continues on Page 2*

#### Connections



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ANNUAL  
CONGREGATION  
MEETING



September 29, 2024  
2:00 PM

**2024 Theme:**  
*The Gospel Is for All*

The Correspondent is a weekly publication of the  
COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST. The church  
meets at 1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234

## Spiritual Blessings: Part Three

Ephesians 1:3-14

### I. Knowledge and Unity- v. 9-10

- A. Knowledge of the mystery of His will- Ephesians 3:1-6, Romans 9:22-26, 1 Peter 1:22
- B. Unity in Him- Ephesians 2:11-22, Colossians 1:19-20, Matthew 28:18, Romans 3:25

### II. An Inheritance- v. 11

- A. The inheritance has been obtained- Genesis 12:3, Ephesians 1:3
- B. An inheritance to come- 1 John 2:25, Romans 8:18-25, Titus 1:2, 3:17, 1 Peter 1:3-5

### III. The Holy Spirit- v. 13-14

- A. The background of the church at Ephesus- Acts 19:1-10, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10
- B. Application for us today- 1 Corinthians 6:19, Romans 8:9, 16-17, Galatians 5:16-26

MEMO:

## Worship Service

### Announcements

Song: 669 This Is My Father's World

### Prayer

Song: 299 I Stand Amazed (vs. 1, 2, 4)

### Lord's Supper and Contribution

Song: 71 Blessed Assurance (vs. 1, 3)

Song: 36 Amazing Grace! (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)

Song: 829 Mansion Over the Hilltop

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 1:11-14

### Sermon

Song: 667 There Is Power in the Blood (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Song: 40 Be with Me, Lord (vs. 1, 3)

### Prayer

## Ephesians 1:11-14 (NKJV)

- <sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.
- <sup>13</sup> In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

### Worship of Entertainment...

Cultural relevance is important-thus many churches are implementing modern technology such as projection systems to enhance sermons, and there is nothing wrong with the worshiper enjoying worship.

God intended for worship to bless His children, but when worship is merely window dressing for an entertainment performance, it cannot please God. The apostle warned, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (2 John 1:9). Paul condemned things that "have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship" (Colossians 2:23). "Self-imposed worship" is that worship fashioned after man's desires.

- Bob Prichard serves as an elder and evangelist for the Hillview Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama, since 2016.

- Article obtained from [www.bulletingold.com](http://www.bulletingold.com)

### Why Worship?

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. John 4:23*