In Search of Spirituality and Meaningful Worship
1 Cor. 3:1-2; Matt. 15:8, 9

Introduction:
A. There has always been a danger of a lack of spirituality and meaningful worship among Christians.
   1. Jesus warned his disciples of vain (purposeless, meaningless) worship. (Matt. 15:8, 9).
   2. Paul rebuked early Christians for their lack of spirituality (1 Cor. 3:1-2).
   3. There can be no doubt that Christians today face this danger.
B. There is also a danger of trying to fill that void in the wrong ways (cf. Col. 2:23)
   1. If we do not understand what real spirituality is all about.
   2. If we do not understand the real nature of worship to God.
   3. If we become bored with the sameness and repetitive nature of New Testament worship.
C. We want to contrast superficial spirituality and worship with scriptural spirituality and worship.

Discussion:
I. Superficial Spirituality and Worship.
   A. Pharisees were great practitioners of superficial spirituality and worship.
      1. Their phylacteries and enlarged borders (Matt. 23:5-6)
      2. Their street corner praying (Matt. 6:5-6)
      3. Their fasting faces (Matt. 6:16-18)
   B. American “Christians” are great practitioners of superficial religion.
      1. Bumper stickers, tee shirts, placards and ten commandment plaques are good examples.
      2. All of this is supposed to convince people that we take the Bible and our religion seriously.
      3. It is a lot easier to rally people around a slogan or a visual symbol than to really change hearts.
      4. The more animated or emotional a “worshiper” becomes the more spiritual he is supposed to be.
   C. “New Testament Christians” are sometime caught up in the frenzy.
      1. Look for ways to appear more spiritual.
      2. Look for some outward display of piety to “make our worship more meaningful.”

II. Scriptural Spirituality and Worship.
   A. Scriptural spirituality is growing in grace and knowledge (1 Cor. 3:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18).
   B. Scriptural spirituality is displayed by our obedience to Christ.
      1. Doing good works (of obedience) (Matt. 5:16) – Says “let light shine” not “shine your light”
      2. A godly life in the midst of a crooked generation (Phil. 2:15)
      3. Our spirituality should speak for itself without our extra-ordinary efforts to call attention to it.
   C. Scriptural worship is made meaningful by understanding its meaning and significance.
      1. First, we need to understand that worship is God-centered and not me-centered.
          a. It is what God wants and not what I want in worship. (Cf. Lev. 10:1-2)
          b. It is more concerned with being meaningful to God than being meaningful to me.
          c. It only becomes meaningful to me when I surrender every thought to God (2 Cor. 10:5).
          d. Once our thoughts are surrendered to Him, Scriptural worship cannot become meaningless.
      2. Next, we need study the Bible to learn and understand all we can about our worship.
          a. Prayer is speaking to God – not to impress men (Matt. 6:5-6)
          b. Singing is “unto God” and to teach one another – not entertainment (Eph. 5:18, 19).
          c. Preaching is relaying God’s word (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2) – not mere performance/presentation.
          d. Giving is an expression of love and fellowship – not merely to raise money.
          e. The Lord’s Supper is a simple memorial supper with thanksgiving (Matt. 26:26-28) – hard to improve on the simplicity of the way the Lord did it.
   D. Scriptural worship is not improved by “touchy-feely” exercises – but by a mind centered on God.

Conclusion:
A. Let us all become more spiritual by improving our knowledge of and obedience of God’s word.
B. Let us spend more time bringing our thoughts into obedience to God, worship will truly be meaningful.