

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part IX

Philippians 1:1-6

Introduction: As believers, we are the vanguard of spiritual influence in the world. God was very poignant about the matter of separating Israel from other nations and wanting their exclusive worship. God instructed them explicitly on how to worship Him. They were to utterly destroy all false forms of worship and to be separated only unto God. Man's worship is important to God. He knows how true worship is vitally connected to His ultimate purpose for man. The worship of God is the mechanism by which God is going to bring about that change. We become a facsimile, a copy of what we worship. *2nd Corinthians 3:18*. God's instruction to the Old Testament church was for them to worship ... "the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:5. That leaves no room for anything else. God is just as concerned about the New Testament people of God, and He wants a circumspect worship from us. God is searching for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*. Giving God what He deserves will produce a salubrious and wholesome atmosphere.

I. God's magnificent idea

- A. The workman. Jesus has everything at His disposal and is very aware of the details, cost, sacrifice, and time involved; but as the Master Builder, Christ is not building alone. He has enlisted the help of others. He has called upon others to be co-laborers together with Him. *1st Corinthians 3:9*.
 1. Initially, God used Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles to cooperate and lay the ground work for the house of the Lord.
 2. Now, God has sub-contracted much of the work to the governmental ministries that He has set in the church – including the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher – to promulgate the message. *Ephesians 4:11-16*.
 - a. Each of the ministries is used of God to build up the body of Christ. Each ministry is interdependent on the others.
 - b. All these ministries together are given the responsibility of equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry that the whole body might be built up and strengthened. *Ephesians 4:12*. Every believer, with the five-fold ministry as their cover, is to contribute their specialized talent or ability which God has given them that the whole may receive benefit. *1st Corinthians 12; Romans 12:1-8; 1st Peter 4:10-11*.
 3. The priesthood. The building of the temple itself is great and like no other on earth, built with living stones. Every other temple in the Old Testament had priesthood and sacrifices. *1st Peter 2:15*.
 - a. The priesthood that God desires us to become partakers of is described for us in *Hebrews 5:7*. This priesthood has a High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 2:17, 4:14, 6:20*.
 - b. Because there is a High Priest, it implies that there are other priests in the priesthood. *Revelation 1:6*.
 4. The sacrifices. *Hebrews 5:1, 8:3*. Christ as our High Priest, as *Hebrews 8:1* states, offered such gifts and sacrifices, but we as kings and priests unto God also have sacrifices to offer. *Hebrews 13:15*. When the patriarchs desired to meet God, they always sacrificed. Jacob built an altar, as did Abraham and Elijah. We too must prepare an altar of sacrifice to meet God. We offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. *1st Peter 2:5*. Our sacrifices include:
 - a. Ourselves. *Romans 6:13, 12:1-2*. God wants to use our members for His glory.
 - b. Our time. *Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5*.
 - c. Our substance. The tithe – *Malachi 3:10*. Sharing with others – *Hebrews 13:16*.
 - d. Our good works. *James 2:20; Hebrews 13:16*.
 - e. Our fruit. *John 15:8, 16*.
 - f. The sacrifice, joy. *2nd Corinthians 4:7-15*.
 - g. Sacrifice, thanksgiving. *Psalms 107:22, 116:17*.

Conclusion: God impresses us about our worth in His sight. He passionately loves us with an everlasting love. He is calling for our all. We must abandon all inhibitions and surrender totally to Him. God wants to use us during this last-day revival like never before. He is coming soon!