

Hello. /We will begin the third lecture on pastoral theology. /At this time we will study worship services led by pastors.

/6. A Pastor and the Worship Service. /The most important thing a pastor does in the church is lead services. /It is the church's important calling to give praise and glory to the living God through service.

/God told us through the Bible that there is worship that he is pleased with. /There is also worship that God does not accept. /Today, many churches do not properly worship God.

/A pastor must not follow the trend of the times. /He must discern worship that God is pleased with from worship that God is not pleased with. /First, let's look at worship that God does not accept.

/(1) Worship that God does not accept. /Worship that God does not accept is worship that is offered in their own way.

/A. Worship that is offered in their own way. /In Exodus chapter 32, the Israelites make a golden calf and worship it. /At the same time, Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments from God up on Mount Sinai.

/When Moses did not come down from the mountain for a long time, the Israelites made a golden calf. /The people called the golden calf, God, and they worshiped it. /From their point of view, Moses was absent and they were frustrated because they could not see God with their eyes.

/Hence, they made a golden calf that they could see with their eyes, and they worshiped the calf as God. /They were joyful before the calf. /They ate and drank and indulged in revelry.

/They worshiped God and rejoiced according to their thoughts and ways. /Yet, God did not accept their worship. /Not only did God not accept their worship, but God became angry.

/On that day, about three thousand of the people died as punishment from God. /It is the same today. /Worship that ignores God's word and is given according to one's own thoughts and ways is not proper worship.

/God does not accept such worship no matter how joyful one is when giving such worship. /There are many worship services nowadays that especially make people happy. /Worship is changing so that newcomers will not be bored but have fun when they come to church for the first time.

/However, no matter how joyful people may be, God is not pleased if it does not agree with God's will. /Even if people have fun, worship that is given according to their own ways is not proper worship. /God does not accept such worship.

/God becomes angry. /We must worship God as it is written in the Bible, and we must worship God according to his pleasing will. /Let's look at how the godly fathers of faith in the past worshiped God.

/Then we must worship in the same way as they did in the past. /God also does not accept worship that is given in formality.

/B. Worship given in formality. /Although we may worship according to what it says in the Bible, it is not proper worship if we worship in formality with insincere hearts. /In the past, the prophets of Israel rebuked the Israelites for their formal sacrifices.

/Isaiah 1:11-12 says, ""The multitude of your sacrifices-- what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?"

/In the past, the Israelites diligently offered sacrifices to God. /However, they gave formal sacrifices without reverence for God. /God said that the multitude of their sacrifices were nothing to him.

/Today, if our hearts do not revere God as we worship him, that worship is a formal worship. /God does not accept such worship. /Then what kind of worship is God pleased with?

/(2) Worship that God is pleased with. /A. Worship of thanksgiving for the atonement of the cross of Jesus. /When we worship before God, we must give thanks for the grace of Jesus' redemption, for Jesus' death on the cross for our sins.

/All sacrifices in the Old Testament symbolized Jesus Christ and His redemption. /The atoning lamb sacrifice especially symbolized Jesus. /In the Old Testament times, when Abel killed and offered the lamb, he confessed with faith that the coming Christ would die as the atoning Lamb.

/Not only that, but when Abel killed and offered the lamb, he believed and gave thanks that he, a sinner, could go before God through Christ. /God was pleased with Abel and his sacrifice and God accepted the sacrifice.

/Today, we believe that Jesus died on the cross as the atoning Lamb. /We must believe that Jesus died as the atoning Lamb, and we must give thanks as we worship.

/We must have hearts of thanksgiving for the grace of Jesus' redemption every time we worship. /Then that will be proper worship and worship that God is pleased with. /Second, God is pleased with worship given in spirit and in truth.

/B. Worship given in spirit and in truth. /John 4:24. /Worshiping in spirit means that the

born again soul of the believer is strengthened by the Holy Spirit in order to communicate with God. /The opposite of worshiping in spirit is physical pleasure, or worship that satisfies the flesh.

/For example, the Roman Catholic Church worships by making various idols that can be seen with the eyes. /They use complicated rituals to produce an image of holiness.

/However, all those things stimulate the human body and stirs up satisfaction in man. /Thus, such worship cannot be proper worship. /Today, churches also try to use worship to satisfy the human body.

/Churches use modern instruments and music to raise the levels of human emotions. /Then they claim to praise and worship God. /Such worship is equal to the Israelites' dancing before the golden calf in the Old Testament times.

/God was not seen with their eyes or felt, so that leaned toward the physical body. /However, we must worship God who is Spirit in spirit. /We must be receive the help of the Holy Spirit.

/We must communicate spiritually with God who is not seen. /We must enjoy the joy of God's Spirit and grace that is found in the Holy Spirit. /We must also worship in truth.

/The ways of worship mentioned earlier are incorrect ways of worship. /We must worship in truth. /This means that we must worship in accordance with the Bible. /Third, God is pleased with worship that is given with one's entire life.

/C. Worship given with one's entire life. /Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship."

/When sacrifices were given to God in the Old Testament times, the sacrifices were not to have any blemishes. /Only the sacrifices that were clean without blemishes were acceptable to be offered to God. /In the New Testament period, we have been cleansed with the blood of Jesus.

/Believers have become holy in status as God's children. /Although we are still with sin and with faults, we have become clean sacrifices through the merit of Jesus' redemption. /Therefore, we must now give our bodies as sacrifices.

/We must sacrifice our bodies as holy and living sacrifices. Our lives will worship God. /Believers must not think that they have fulfilled their duties to worship by worshiping once a week at church.

/Believers must worship God in their every day lives. /They must glorify God in their every day lives. /Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test

and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

/When believers assimilate into the sinful world, they do not properly worship with their lives. /Believers must separate themselves from the sinful world.

/We encounter many things when we live in the world for six days. We must strive to find God’s pleasing will in our environments, and we must strive to live by his will. /We must not live for ourselves, but live for the glory of God.

/When we do so, God will be glorified through our lives. /Worship services on Sundays are worship given to God by all believers, and it is worship that is given on a holy day that has been set apart by God. Thus, there is great meaning in this.

/However, how a believer lives during the six days aside from Sundays is important. /A believer must continuously think of God during the six days, and he must obey God’s will and glorify God with his life.

/When he does so, he can properly worship God in ways that God is pleased with. /Next, let’s look at church facilities.

/(3) Facilities for worship. /A. Choosing the sanctuary and location. /It is best to choose a location for the sanctuary with good accessibility for newcomers and for the distribution of the members of the church if possible.

/When choosing a sanctuary, it is not good to purchase a building that is too expensive compared to the circumstances of the church and the financial circumstances of the believers. /We cannot purchase a sanctuary that is beyond what we can afford, simply with faith that God will provide.

/God works through the things we have. /Seeking excessive things is not faith, but rather, greed. /We must pray and receive God’s guidance, and we must purchase a sanctuary that agrees with the circumstances and situations of the church.

/B. The pulpit. /The pulpit is the place where the preacher proclaims God’s word. /Therefore, the pulpit must be put one or two meters high so that the congregation can see the preacher well.

/If the sanctuary is small and the pulpit is set too high, the congregation will have to crane their necks, which can interfere with worship. /Thus, the pulpit must be set appropriately according to the size of the sanctuary.

/In some churches, the communion table is placed right below the pulpit. /The communion table is used to put bread and wine on during communion, and it is also used for representative prayer.

/In the case of the reformist church, which stresses the importance of deliverance of

God's word, the pulpit is placed in the middle.

/C. Choir seats. /The choir is not absolutely needed for worship services. /The reformist church considers the deliverance of God's word and the congregation's receiving of God's word absolutely important.

/It is not right to think that the choir is a way to bring grace on people. /The choir praises God as representatives of the congregation in response to God's grace. /Therefore, the position of the choir seats must not be positioned similar to the position of the pulpit.

/Some churches place the choir seats behind the pulpit. /Some place the choir seats so that they face the congregation. /There are problems with both these ways. /The choir does not praise towards the congregation.

/Yet, it does not mean that the choir has no relation to the congregation. /Therefore, it is most appropriate to place the choir seats next to the pulpit where they can see both the pulpit and the congregation. /The choir is a part of the congregation, and they must listen to God's word and properly worship.

/D. Church pews. /Pews must be placed in accordance with the pulpit. /In order to increase the effects of sermons, it is ideal for pews to be placed within a sixty-degree scope of the pulpit at the center.

/Pews are traditionally made of long benches made of wood. /If circumstances do not allow for pews, chairs must be arranged in an orderly way. /The atmosphere of the sanctuary must be reverent and solemn.

/E. Sound systems. /It is very important to use microphones and speakers when worshiping. /If conditions allow it, it is good to have professionals install sound systems in the sanctuary.

/However, if that is not possible, it is good to have good microphones and speakers so that the preacher's words can be clearly heard throughout the sanctuary. /Good microphones and speakers will be helpful to the congregation.

/Not only that, but they will help the preacher deliver God's word comfortably, which will be advantageous to worship. /Next, let's look at the order of worship services.

/(4) Order of worship services. /There are orders of worship services. /Each part is meaningful in its own way. /Therefore, we must understand each part for proper worship.

/A. Invitation to Worship. /God invited man to worship. /This means that worship is not led by man but is given under the sovereignty of God, and our obedience is shown through worship.

/Hence, we call the beginning of worship, the invitation to worship or the calling to

worship. /Worship may begin with the worship leader's reading of a biblical text related to the worship service. If not, worship may begin with, "We will now worship God together."

/B. Praise. /We must respond to God's calling by first glorifying and worshiping God. /Thus, the first praise must be one that can completely lift up God and praise and worship him.

/Generally, two or three hymns are sung before the sermon. /It is good for praises sung before the sermon to include words of completely worship or repentance.

/Praises sung after the sermon should be responses to the sermon. /Thus, songs of praise must be chosen according to the topic of the sermon. /For example, praises of devotion, obedience, or service are all acceptable topics of praise.

/C. Responsive reading of the Psalms. /Responsive reading of the Psalms is a part of worship services that has been passed down throughout the history of the church. /After praises are sung, the preacher proceeds to do a responsive reading of the Psalms with the congregation. /Yet, it is not wrong to skip the responsive reading.

/The main parts of worship are praise, God's word, prayer, and proclamation of God's word. /The most important from among these is the proclamation of God's word. /Many churches omit the responsive reading in order to stress the importance of praise, prayer, and proclamation of God's word.

/D. The confession of faith. /This order is kept by the majority of Presbyterian churches, and believers confess their faith with the Apostles' Creed. /It is common to sing one song of praise before the responsive reading of the Psalms of the confession of faith, and then sing another song of praise after the confession of faith.

/E. Representative prayer. /The order of worship has been an invitation to worship, praise, responsive reading of the Psalms, the confession of faith, and praise. /After the last song before the sermon, the worship leader invites a person to pray the representative prayer.

/He would pray to God a representative prayer as a representative of the congregation. /Generally, each church has a fixed order of representative prayer. /The person can then know when it is his turn, and he can prepare his prayer with his heart for a week.

/F. The reading of Scripture. /When the representative prayer is over, the worship leader reads from the Bible. /In the reformist church, two passages, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, other than the main biblical passage, that were related to the sermon were traditionally read during worship. /Today in the Korean church, just the main biblical passage of the sermon is commonly read.

/The passages that the worship leader reads during the reading of Scripture are very

important. /In some churches, the congregation stands with the worship leader during the reading of Scripture to show reverence for God's word.

/G. Choir worship. /After the reading of Scripture, the choir glorifies God with praise. /The choir, as representatives of the congregation, must practice and prepare songs of praise in advance.

/The songs of praise of the choir must be founded on the Bible. /If it is possible, it would be good for the choir to speak with the preacher in advance, so that the choir could sing about the topic of the upcoming sermon.

/H. The sermon. /The sermon is the absolutely and most important part of the worship service. /Please refer to the lectures on homiletics about the specifics of preaching.

/I. Prayer and praise after the sermon. /After the sermon is over, the preacher prays with the contents of the sermon. /We must engrave God's word onto our hearts, and we must pray that we would live in obedience to God's word. /Then we sing praises that are related to the sermon.

/J. Giving of offerings. /The giving of offerings. /Some churches pass around the collection basket at this time. /However, it is more biblical to keep a collection box in the back of the sanctuary so that members can voluntarily give offerings on their way in.

/In Luke 22:1 and John 8:20, Jesus gave offerings in the temple treasury.

/K. Announcements. /Announcements are a time to share church news with the congregation. /Some say that announcements should be removed from the worship order. /However, if announcements are seen as a means of communication between believers, then it should not be a problem.

/One thing we must be careful of, however, is not to speak too many miscellaneous words during announcements. /Public news that the congregation must know must be briefly introduced to the congregation.

/L. Last song of praise and benediction. /The last song of praise is sung at the end of the worship service to God. Generally, a shorter hymn in the front of the hymnal is sung.

/Then the pastor blesses the congregation in the name of the Trinity God. /"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

/Sunday morning worship services can be given in the order listed above. In Sunday afternoon services or Wednesday night services, /it is common for the responsive reading of the psalms, choir worship, last song of praise and benediction to be left out.

/Early morning services can be simple with praise, prayer, and a sermon. /Sunday

afternoon services, Wednesday services, and early morning services can end with the Lord's Prayer.

/With this we will conclude the third lecture on pastoral theology. /Thank you.