

# NSD Notes

*For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)*  
Volume 1 No. 9 March 1, 2009

## Services

- Bible Study ..... 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

## News @ NSD

### WELCOME VISITORS!

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

#### Members who are Travelling

- **Matt Wells** is in Florida for work.
- **Vicki Barton** is visiting her family in Vegas.
- **Jason Henderson** – work trip.

#### Ailing Members & Friends

- **Dema Franklin** –neck surgery scheduled for early next month.
- **Martha Holloway** – recurring back problem.
- **Jeanne Lynne** - undergoing chemotherapy treatment.
- **Chuck Holloway** (Ken’s brother) and **Benjamin Hoskins** (Daniel’s Dad).

#### Military Members

- **Ernest Peeples** – in Texas awaiting deployment to Kuwait.

The Monthly Ladies Bible Study will be held next Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. See Meredith for additional information.

## IS “TRADITIONALISM” ALL BAD?

*David Posey*

### When does custom inhibit worship and learning?

Custom can inhibit worship, but when? First, we need to understand the term “worship.”

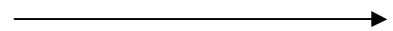
Worship is praise, honor and adoration directed toward God. When we assemble, it is not primarily for ourselves, but for God: God is the audience. This point is lost on those who place the emphasis on meeting the needs of the group instead of worshipping the God for whom the group ostensibly exists. Proper worship must be aimed at exalting God and, from the standpoint of the participants, drawing them closer to God. The aim is not to create a “mood” or to keep everyone entertained. It is to worship God.

Though hard to fathom, given our culture and practice, scholars point out that there may have been as much weeping in early church assemblies as there was rejoicing. There is little information on what occurred in first century assemblies, but they probably were not unlike that of late Jewish assemblies. In **Nehemiah 8**, the people wept as Ezra read the law.

### When does custom become sin?

Customary practice is wrong when we allow it to become the reason for our service. If I assemble just because it is my practice to do so, and forget that the real reason is to worship God, then it has become a curse to me, instead of a blessing. It is also wrong when we allow it to dictate every aspect of our service, for no better reason than that “this is what we’ve always done.”

It is not so much the form, as the mindset. Tradition can become law, and if it does, it has become sin. It is not “speaking as the oracles of God” (**1 Pet. 4:11**). The church should be willing to make changes in the form when those changes will accomplish something substantive. Changes designed only to touch the emotions without affecting the mind are not only pointless, but dangerous. Someone pointed out one time that it is “very dangerous to give the non-worshipping heart the feeling of having worshipped.”



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All are welcome to our worship  
and study meetings!

*... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with  
thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16*

The heavens declare the glory of God  
And the firmament shows His handiwork.  
Day unto day utters speech,  
And night unto night reveals knowledge.  
There is no speech nor language  
Where their voice is not heard.  
Their line has gone out through all the  
earth,  
And their words to the end of the world.

**Psalm 19:1-4**

Out on the highways and byways of life  
Many are the weary and sad  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife  
Making the sorrowing glad

Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love  
Tell of His pow'r to forgive  
Others will trust Him if only you prove  
True every moment you live

Give as 'twas given to you in your need  
Love as the Master loved you  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed  
Unto your mission be true

Chorus  
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing  
Out of my life may Jesus shine  
Make me a blessing, O Saviour I pray  
Make me a blessing to someone today  
**Ira B. Wilson**

## [..Traditionalism..]

In other words, if I am so moved on the outside that my mind never engages to fulfill the purpose of worship, I may be deceived into thinking I have worshipped when I did nothing of the sort. If we control the atmosphere and arrange the service in such a way that promotes a selfish “worship,” then we have contributed to a fiction. The person who attends may think he has worshipped; he may even feel good. But he may have been light years away from authentic worship.

How can we tell if we’ve allowed customary practices to become mechanical routine? I don’t believe we can do it by observation, necessarily. I cannot read the mind of a one who comes to an assembly and I have no desire to do so. People worship God in various ways. If we impose a certain style on the worshipper, we are treading on dangerous ground. People’s praise takes different forms. For example, when their first child is born, some are very demonstrative and vocal, others very quiet and reflective. Is one right and the other wrong? Of course not.

Sometimes people will make these kinds of judgments without realizing it. Whenever I hear someone describing a sermon or prayer and say “he was very sincere,” I cringe a bit. In the first place, how do we know whether a person was sincere or not? We can’t make that judgment by listening to them. People have looked me in the eye, through tears in their own eyes, while lying through their teeth.

Even though we gather to worship, worship is primarily a personal matter and each person must examine himself (**2 Cor. 13:5**). The criteria is to worship “in spirit and truth” (**John 4:24**). How can we be certain we are doing that? There is one primary way we can keep that command: we need to know the truth and be excited about it. I don’t know any other way to worship “in truth and spirit.” That means we need to be conversant with Scripture and be enthusiastic about the hope and promise it affords.

*Excerpted from The View, August 17, 2008*

## **This Week’s Memory Verse: Psalm 1:1-2**

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

**ELDERS:** Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

**DEACON:** Matt Wells

**MINISTER:** Dan Austin