

WORSHIP AND OFFERINGS

(Rev. A. G. Sargent)

Two questions prepared and answered by Dr. Will N. Johnson, of More Hill, in the January issue of "The Next Step" will be of interest to all who love the Lord Jesus.

1. Do we worship GOD in our churches?

2. Do we worship God WITH OUR OFFERINGS?

1. Do we today then really worship God in our churches? Well, there are many interferences in its way. There is our hurry in the week. There is our jammed religious program on Sunday. There is in many churches the noise of the period between Sunday School and the worship hour. There is the jazz and swing in much of our church music. There are our frozen formalisms. There is the unwilling attendance of many at church who have come under the coercion of custom or public opinion or the group pressure of the Bible class as standardized in our modern Sunday School. There is our unwillingness to stand or kneel be-

fore God. Most people now sit erect or stiffly bow in public prayer. With such interferences, if there is any worship at all, it is difficult and distant; feeble, if not indeed non-existent.

Let us avoid substitutes for worship. Religious activity may become a deadly detour around it. We do not serve God at church on Sunday; we are to worship Him there in preparation to serve Him in daily life. To call our worship hour a "church service" may somersault us out of worship into formal activity. We may substitute the arts for worship; our architecture, our church music, and even our homiletics may shortcut worship. It grows more doubtful whether aesthetics necessarily have place in immediate worship of God.

Let us utilize all the real helps to worship. Our forms will help us, if we keep the meaning of them in mind when we use them and if we vary them often enough that they do not become mere habits. We

should have private worship before we care to take any part in public worship. There should be periods of absolute silence in our churches. Private devotion is necessary prayer. No minister should venture to bring a congregation to face God who has not himself the same day faced God alone in the deep quiet of his own soul.

If one church somewhere were ready to worship God, it might precipitate a spiritual earthquake in our modern Christendom. A church really worshipping and "witnessing" might become a greater centre of pilgrimage than a theatrical stage at Oberammergau or anywhere else.

Really, is worship blocked in our churches? Has sin separated between us and God? Are we trying to get God to hear us while we regard iniquity in our hearts? If there is anything in the universe more precious to us than God, we can not worship Him, and all our pretense to do so is to Him offensive mockery.

We seriously raise the question. Has money got in the way of God with us? Do we not feel that money will buy all that we need in this world? Have we got into the habit of feeling that with our money we can hire others to serve God in our place? Has not Mammon (money) become our God? Our business-like worshipless giving of money in our churches to hire people to carry on for us formal religious routine, is it not itself the most insidious and the most blighting worship of Mammon now going on in our day? Can we expect God to bless in such a farce?

It pains us to say it. But we must be honest and speak out on it—the worship of God in most of our churches is now blocked tight by our covetousness. Covetousness is the sin of have-more-ness (original meaning of *pleonexia*, New Testament Greek for it) and money is its symbol and centre. Covetousness is idolatry. Paul twice tells us so. Why is covetousness idolatry? Because it is the worship of money as a God whom we think we ourselves own.

We would not say that there are no individuals in our churches who worship God in our meetings. They worship in spite of the interferences and substitutes around them. But we would say that the public worship in our churches, as now generally organized in our modern economic system set up around money as the supreme value in human life, usually does more honor to Mammon than to God.

2. So the material offering we bring to God is an inevitable part of true worship. It is a means of worship. It is the most practical expression of worship. It is often the severest test of the sincerity of our worship.

But it must be a worthy offering. It must be an honest offering; the total of our offerings should be at least a tenth of our income correctly reckoned. If we begrudge God a tenth, then quickly as possible, we should offer Him the best, or the most, or even all that we have. But that is not enough; our offerings should come from incomes actually gained in exploitation of other people can be given as worthy offering to God. If we have wronged another man in the way we get what we offer to God, we must go and get things straight with that man before God will accept our offering as worship. Crooked dealings can not be straightened by pious giving of what has been stolen or dishonestly taken from others. All our offerings are unworthy if they leave us feeling that what we keep is our own. What we do not give to God in offerings is to be kept as God's, and we are to let God keep us as His stewards over all that we do not give to Him. In worthy offerings, we are not trying to buy off God as to our rights or privileges in anything that we keep from Him. No matter how much it is, our offering is despicable unless we give our own selves to God with it. And once we give ourselves to God, we can keep nothing as our own, but only as God's to be used according to His will here on earth so long as we live.

By all means, let us make our offerings at church solemnly worshipful. There is no set way to do this. In one church with impressive silence the offerings are deposited privately in a box outside the place of public worship; in another they are brought down the aisle and laid on a table in full gaze of everybody. But in both these churches with practically no mention of money amazing amounts are given—an un-speakable awe that makes people feel the immediate presence of God.

TOWN ORDINANCE

At a regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Kings Mountain on February 6, 1939, it was determined that certain water and sewerage extensions were necessary in the Town of Kings Mountain and in order to make said improvements, it would be necessary to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds with which to make said improvements and upon motion of Commissioner W. K. Mauney and seconded by Commissioner J. K. Willis, the following Ordinance was introduced; and unanimously adopted:

An Ordinance to authorize the Town of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, to issue Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars of water and sewerage extension bonds.

SECTION ONE: That the Town of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, do issue its bonds pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act to an amount not exceeding Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars for the purpose of improving and extending its water and sewer system.

SECTION TWO: That a tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the bond shall be annually levied and collected.

SECTION THREE: That a statement of the debt of said municipality has been filed with the Clerk and is open to public inspection.

SECTION FOUR: That the ordinance will take effect thirty days after the first publication unless in the meantime a petition for the submission to the voters of the said Municipal Finance Act and that in such event it shall take effect when approved by the voters in said municipality at an election provided for in said Municipal Finance Act.

The foregoing ordinance was passed on the 6th day of February, 1939, and was first published on the 9th day of February, 1939. Any action or proceeding questioning the validity of said order must be commenced within thirty days after its first publication.

Chas. G. Dilling, Town Clerk.
-adv-feb 16



A complete eye examination will reveal the true condition of your eyes.

DRS. PALMER & WIKE

Optometrists
317 A No. Tryon, Charlotte
In Kings Mountain Wednesdays 2:30-6:00 P. M.
Office In Professional Building



IN OUR 64th SERIES

Have the cash ready when you need it—for travel, old age security, a home of your own or any other purpose.

You'll be surprised how quickly even 25c or 50c weekly mounts up. The table at the left shows you how.

Number Shares	Cost Per Week	Value at Maturity
1	25c	\$ 100.00
4	\$1.00	400.00
10	2.50	1,000.00
20	5.00	2,000.00
30	7.50	3,000.00

Get the complete information about our New Savings Series NOW! There are no obligations.

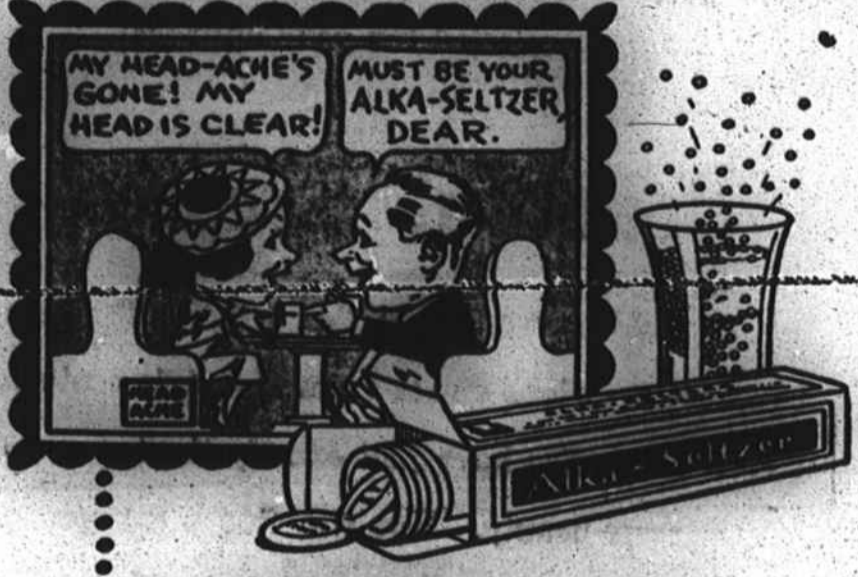
HOME BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

A. H. Patterson
Secretary-Treasurer

A LETTER FROM HOME

A Welcome GIFT to the Former Resident

IN THIS NEWSPAPER



There is a modern pleasant way to get relief from Headache, Gas on Stomach, Cold, Heartburn, "Morning After" and Muscular Pains. Just drop one or two ALKA-SELTZER tablets into a glass of water. Watch it bubble—listen to it fizz. As soon as tablet is dissolved, drink the tangy solution.

Alka-Seltzer

(Analgesic Alkalinizing Effervescent Tablets)
You will really enjoy the taste—more like spring water than like medicine.
ALKA-SELTZER, when dissolved in water, contains an analgesic (Sodium Acetyl-Salicylate), which relieves pain, while its alkalinizing agents help to correct everyday ailments associated with hyperacidity.
Your druggist has ALKA-SELTZER. Get a 50c or 90c package on our "satisfaction-or-money-back" guarantee.

IT WISELY ALKALIZES!

REMEMBER You Always Save At Belk's

Week-End Specials

DOUBLE BLANKETS
Only 10 left in the store, size 72x84. \$2.98 value to close out—
\$1.99 EACH

CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS
Regular 59c and 69c values. Week End Special—
43c EACH

88 DOZEN TOWELS
Here's A Real Buy
3c each

REMNANTS Prints And Silks At Special Close-Out Prices

CURTAINS Values up to \$2. Out they go—
38c PAIR

ONE GROUP OF PRINTS
To Close Out
5c yd.

LINOLEUM RUGS
9x12 Size with \$10 Sales Slips Only \$3.77
6x9 Size with \$5 Sales Slips Only \$2.50

ONE BIG TABLE PRETTY PRINTS
To Close Out
9c yard

Belk's Dept. Store
The Home Of Better Values
See Our Window Display

YOU KNOW OF OUR

- Service
- Workmanship
- Prices
- Experience

FOSTER'S
SHOE SERVICE
Phone 154
We Call For and Deliver

CHEVROLET

1st in sales

1st in Features
1st in Value

... and again in 1939 people everywhere are saying, "CHEVROLET'S THE CHOICE!"

Chevrolet outsells all others because Chevrolet out-values all others! That's the verdict of discerning buyers in all parts of the country, and it will be your verdict, too, when you weigh the many extra-value features Chevrolet is offering. Modern features—important features—exclusive features like Vacuum Gearshift, Valve-in-Head Engine, New "Observation Car" Visibility, Perfected Knee-Action Riding System, and Tiptoe-Matic Clutch—features available nowhere else at such

CHEVROLET..572,539
NEXT MAKE..454,950
NEXT MAKE..287,947

extremely low prices! Only Chevrolet gives so much for so little, and that is why —"Chevrolet's the Choice!"

SEE YOUR LOCAL CHEVROLET DEALER

CLEVELAND MOTOR CO.

Phone 49 Kings Mountain, N. C.