

Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15) *Is All of Life Worship?*

Answer the following false positions:

1. "Paul tells us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). If prayer is worship, and if we are to pray without ceasing, then we are to worship in some sense without ceasing. It will not do for us to think that we cannot obey what Paul plainly tells us to do. If prayer is worship and we should pray unceasingly, then we should continuously worship. We must not turn unbeliever and say, "O well, we cannot always be praying and so the Bible does not mean what it says." We should, instead, consider what unceasing prayer may mean. Phil. 4:6 says, "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." There is a prayer that is not supplication, thanksgiving, nor requests. Could this kind of prayer be the devotion of heart fully consecrated to the Creator? Is it possible this is what is involved in praying without ceasing?

We may not always go about speaking or thinking words in sending to the Everlasting Throne conscious expressions of honor, thanks, and requests, but it is possible for us to live our lives with God, the judgment, and eternity always in mind. That may be the praying without ceasing. If it is, then our worship ought to be unintermittent – unailing" (Buster Dobbs; *Is All Of Life Worship*; Contending For The Faith; December 1998; page 7).

2. "And we in this life, in this world, give ourselves completely and totally in His service. In the opening verse of the twelfth chapter of the book of Romans Paul says: "I beseech you by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Him, that's your reasonable service." So he tells us that we are to lay our very souls upon the altar of this present existence, that we are to give all that we have, our hearts, our strength, our mind, to the service of the Lord. And that is a total commitment. Sometimes people think of that as service, and sometimes they think of it as worship. But the commitment has got to be total.

We, of course sometimes do wrong things and that's not worship. The Bible tells us in the book of First John that if we say we have no sin then we're a liar and the truth is not in us. And furthermore, we make God a liar and His word's not in us. And that's in the first chapter, verses six through ten. Now I don't care who you are or how hard you try, sooner or later, there is going to be some failure. You need to get that right. And the sin that we do, we all do sin, I do and you do as well - the sin we do is certainly not worship, is it? And so that would be something in life that's not worship. And yet, the main tendency of our life must be toward God. And so we live our life with a reverence to God and we live all of our days with the thought of the judgment before us and the knowledge that God sees us and knows every particular of our life. And that our purpose in this life is to make a complete commitment. And when we're doing that - that's worship. And that's what God expects us to do and that's what He wants us to do" (Buster Dobbs; Audio Transcript from a sermon; Sunday July 5, 1998; Fleetwood church of Christ in Houston, TX).