

Reformed Christian Worldview  
Lesson 16: Restoring True Worship

I. Review - Core Beliefs of a Reformed Christian Worldview

A. Creation

1. Created in the Image of God who created the world, made it functional, beautiful and full.
2. Created to tend and keep the garden: to make God's creation productive for him.
3. Created as male and female to work together to fulfill God's mandate to subdue the earth.

B. Fall

1. Man's Stewardship in with the Creation is Broken
  - a) *Greed*
  - b) *Laziness*
  - c) *Workaholism*
2. Natural Systems are Broken
  - a) *"Thorns and Thistles"*
  - b) *Illness*
  - c) *Unequal Distribution of Natural Resources*
  - d) *"Natural" Disasters*

C. Restoration

1. In Christ, All Things are Being Restored
2. Restoration is the goal of the Ministry of the Church, which is the body of Christ
3. Restoration of all things is the collective responsibility of Christians, who are united to Christ.
  - a) *Last week we focused on Restoring a Christian View of Work*
    - (1) We saw that our God is a working God
    - (2) The Christian reflects the image of God when he works diligently
  - b) *This week, we will focus on restoring true worship*

II. Restoring True Worship

A. Exercise

1. You are asked by the elders to be on a committee assigned the task of restoring the spiritual life of the congregation.
2. List the 4 most important things that you think ought to be encouraged in the congregation.

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B. False Religion Identified

1. Activity Religion (Isaiah 1:11-15)

a) *Activity Religion Identified*

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Activity Religion Condemned (Isaiah 1:11-17)*

- (1) God does not delight in token activities
- (2) He considers them a \_\_\_\_\_ of His space
- (3) He \_\_\_\_\_ them
- (4) They are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him
- (5) He will not \_\_\_\_\_ them or \_\_\_\_\_ their prayers

c) *Activity Religion Corrected*

- (1) A Repenting religion (*Isaiah 1:16*)
  - (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (confession)
  - (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (remove evil)
- (2) An Activist Religion (*Isaiah 1:17*)
  - (a) Correct \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Protect the \_\_\_\_\_

2. "Role-Play" Religion (Isaiah 58:1-4)

a) *Role-Play Religion Identified - The External Show of Religion*

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ me daily
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for Guidance
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Role-Play Religion Condemned*

- (1) They find \_\_\_\_\_ with God
- (2) They fast to be \_\_\_\_\_ with themselves
- (3) They fast and \_\_\_\_\_ the poor
- (4) They fast and \_\_\_\_\_

c) *Role-Play Religion Corrected (Isaiah 58:6-10)*

- (1) Help those in \_\_\_\_\_ to wickedness
- (2) Free those who are \_\_\_\_\_ by others
- (3) Empty \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of the poor

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3. Self-Fulfillment Religion (Micah 6:1-7)
- a) *Self-Fulfillment Religion Identified*
- (1) Blame God for \_\_\_\_\_ with life
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by God's requirements
  - (3) Seek more religious activity to cover the \_\_\_\_\_
- b) *Self-Fulfillment Religion Condemned*
- (1) God \_\_\_\_\_ His people
  - (2) He is not pleased with their \_\_\_\_\_
- c) *Self-Fulfillment Religion Corrected (Micah 6:6-8)*
- (1) Do \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Love \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) Walk \_\_\_\_\_ with God
4. Complacent and Comfortable Religion (Amos 6:1, 4-6)
- a) *Complacent and Comfortable Religion Identified*
- (1) At \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (6) Not \_\_\_\_\_ over ruin of God's People
- b) *Complacent and Comfortable Religion Condemned*
- (1) First to be \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Faith without \_\_\_\_\_ does not save (James 2:14-16)
- c) *Complacent and Comfortable Religion Corrected*
- (1) Be moved by the state of God's people – the \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Be moved by the \_\_\_\_\_ of individual Christians
    - (a) Pronouncement of \_\_\_\_\_
    - (b) Giving a physical \_\_\_\_\_
    - (c) (James 1:26-27)
      - (i) *Visit orphans and widows*
        - (a) to look upon in order to help or to benefit.
      - (ii) *Poor-wardness (James 2:14-16)*
        - (a) Both Testaments expose religious hypocrisy by exposing a lack of poor-wardness; that is, a lack of effort at helping those who suffer in the physical realm.
  - (3) Keep yourself unstained by the world
    - (a) without defect, without blemish, i.e., an animal fit for sacrifice

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(b) free from vice, unsullied, not marred in one's character

#### C. Summary - The Important Matters of Religion (Matthew 23:23-24)

1. Condemnation of false religion
  - a) *They followed the \_\_\_\_\_ meticulously*
  - b) *They \_\_\_\_\_ on everything*
2. True religion includes meticulous following of God's law
  - a) *"These you \_\_\_\_\_ to have done"*
3. True religion does not neglect the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ – *unjustly denying someone their rights*
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ – *kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them*
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ – *holy fervour born of faith, the character of one who can be relied on*
4. True Religion Focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_ important, without neglecting the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) *It is important that we seek to understand the fine points of theology.*
  - b) *It is more important that we live our lives toward others in a way that reflects what God has done for us.*

#### D. Result of Practicing True Religion (Isaiah 58:8-12 selected)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ will shine
2. \_\_\_\_\_ will come
3. God will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you
4. You will be \_\_\_\_\_ to the people you were created to be!