

## WHEN DID ONLY MUSIC BECOME WORSHIP

Dear Friend:

It might surprise you to know that the first time the word worship is used in the Bible is found in Genesis 22:5. This is in the middle of the Abraham and Isaac story when God tells Abraham: "Go sacrifice your son as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:2)". We can't imagine Abraham's emotions, but we do know he was obedient Genesis 22:5, says: "He said to his servants: 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship then come back to you"

I don't know about you, but I find this an unusual place to read the word worship. Where's the Temple? Where's other people? Where's the music? Thinking of today's contemporary worship: Where's the fog machine? Where's the lights? The smoke? We should listen to our own words about worship. "The worship was great, but the prayers seemed to long". "I don't know why we have to pause worship to take-up an offering"? "The worship music was great, the sermon not so great". For far, far, too long we have had a distorted understanding of what worship is. We speak as though music is our worship and everything else is not. We even separate music in a wrong way: "I really enjoyed the worship songs today but I'm not a fan of the hymns". Contemporary Christian music is worship songs AND hymns are worship songs!

I am running out of space but let me make a couple quick observations. First, biblically, worship is defined as: "Giving my thanks and praise to God for all he has done, is doing, and will do in my life". Looking at Abraham's actions we see that worship was surrender, obedience and sacrifice. All 3 of those were involved in his response to taking Isaac to the mountaintops for worship. True worship brings God pleasure. For true worship to happen God needs to see you fully surrendered.

Music is a part of worship, but not THE totality of worship. Music is one of the elements of worship. Everything done in a worship service should be an element of worship. Music is not the only thing we do in a church service that is worship! AND, praise God for music!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Pastor Al Carter (starting treatment for prostate cancer),  
Clarabell Harlan (100th birthday coming August 18), Betty McCombs