

# The Way of

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

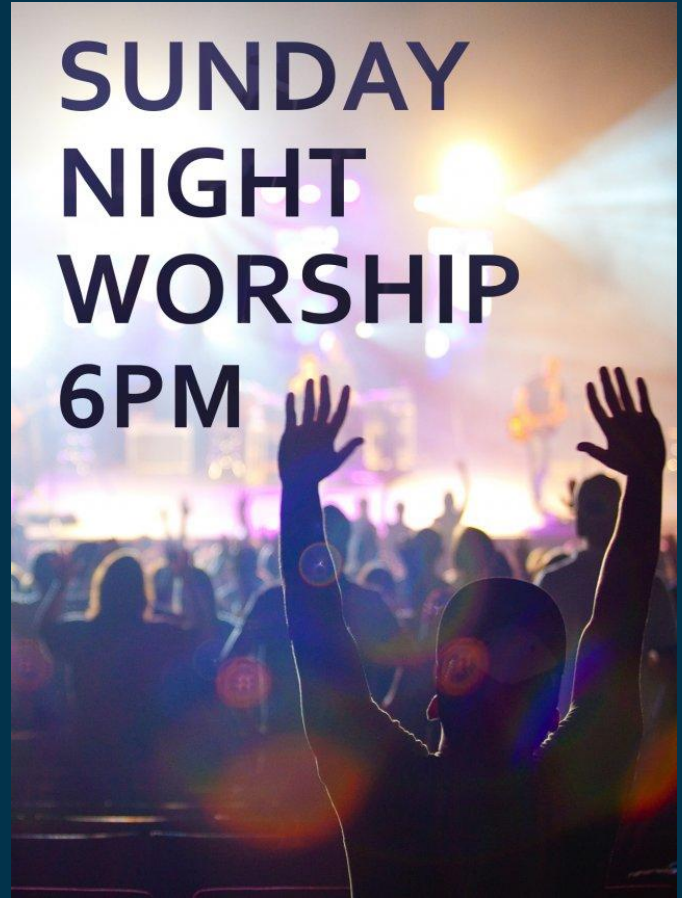
# Worship

# What is Worship?



# Review

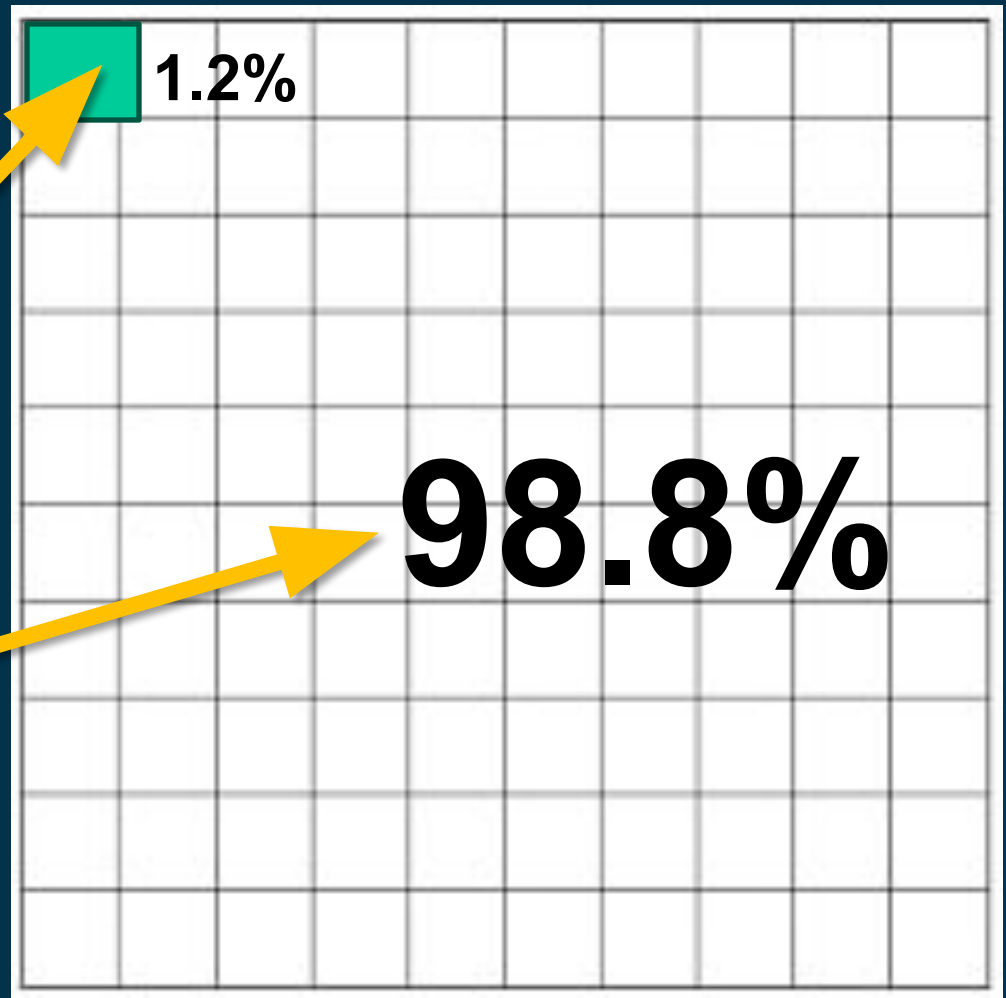
How we generally think  
of **worship** and use the  
word in the  
contemporary church.



# In the Scriptures:

“worship”  
with music or  
singing

“worship”  
happening other  
ways



We see a lot of music in  
the Bible but it is  
generally called

**PRAISE**

# Praise

= *halal*, in the intensive form *hillel*,

“boast about” –

we see praise happening when singing,  
from playing instruments, from dancing  
etc.



**Psalm 149:1** “Praise the Lord! Sing a new song to the Lord, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.”

**Psalm 57:9** “I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

**Praise** is the singing and telling of who God is and what He has done for us.

Different than how we mainly see **worship** happening, **praise** does not require anything of us or cost

*The reason this is important is if mainly think of worship as singing, we are potentially missing all the ways we are to be worshiping according to Scripture. When we worship – our lives change as we are surrendering and making decisions to live in obedience to God's Word vs. what we may want to do or thing*

Looking at how people  
**worshiped** in the Bible

# 1) Worship is grateful submission



The most common word for  
“worship” literally means  
“bow down.”

Signifying a posture of surrender  
and submission.

**Worship** in Scripture almost always involved giving up something of value and cost back to God.

- In the Old Testament we saw worship expressed through the sacrifice of animals which was a financial cost

# Joshua 22:27

“..we will **worship** the Lord at His sanctuary **with our burnt offerings, sacrifices** and fellowship offerings.”



# Romans 12:1-2

**Therefore**, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, **to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**”

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Worship** is the giving of our bodies as a living sacrifice. This means the willing and intentional offering of our entire lives, what we do with our bodies, our thoughts, our relationships, our decisions, our actions and yielding our will to His will is what full true worship is.

Every time you say no to yielding to something that would go against God's guidance – you just worshiped.

Every time you choose to yield your thinking and culture's thinking to God's thinking even when it is uncomfortable to do so – you just worshiped.

Every time you obey the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament and live out the fruit of the Spirit (kindness, goodness etc.) – you just worshiped.

**The worship was great today!**

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**The offering of ourselves as living sacrifices, honoring God with our bodies and decisions, holy living, renewing our mind with Scripture and not conforming to the world was great today!**

**2) Worship is serving  
and giving of your time**



The 2<sup>nd</sup> most used word that we see translated as “worship” is “abad” which means: *to work, serve*



# Exodus 3:12

“I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will **worship God** on this mountain”.

# Psalm 100:2

ESV [NIV] | “*Serve [worship]  
the LORD with gladness!*”

## Joshua 24:14

“Now fear the Lord and **serve** him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors **worshiped** beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.”

When the English word “worship” is found in the Bible, it overwhelmingly means to “prostrate oneself,” “bow down.” The next most frequently used word is abad, meaning “to serve.” And although it is only sometimes translated directly to “worship,” even when it reads “serve” it should be read as synonymous with “worship” when applied in a religious

*Both words carry a strong connotation of submission. And when we contemplate ancient middle-eastern culture, with kings and subjects, masters and servants, the idea of bowing and serving being components of Almighty God's relationship with his people doesn't seem odd at all.*

*To conclude, when we read the word "worship" we should always see within it the essence of bowing, an aroma of surrender and service, of saying, "here I am, use me as you will."*

*“There is little, if any, distinction between acts of service to God and acts of worship. Second, the type of worship God expects from us demands a submission of our entire being. Combining these points leads to a third consequence, that we cannot worship God correctly without serving Him. This is what some refer to as “lifestyle” worship.*

*It's what Paul had in mind when he commands us to "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice" (Rom 12:1). Such an understanding of service explains why translators often translate abad as "worship."*

**We aren't meant to worship  
alone. We are to be  
worshiping with others – the  
local church was born to be  
worshipers on a mission.**



**We need each other to be  
“offering our bodies as living  
sacrifices” and “do not  
confirm to the patterns of the  
world”.**

*“If you’re not worshiping God on Monday the way you did the day before, perhaps you’re not worshiping him at all.”*

**-A.W. Tozer**

# Hebrews 10:25

Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**The church first started  
meeting together in homes.**

- teaching from Scripture
- prayer
- serving using gifts
- giving financially
- the Lord's Supper/Communion
- baptisms
- singing hymns



# 1 Corinthians 12:1

Now about the gifts of the Spirit,  
brothers and sisters, I do not want  
you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>.

# 1 Corinthians 12:4-5

There are different kinds of gifts,  
but the same Spirit distributes  
them. There are different kinds of  
service, but the same Lord.



# 1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

**Are you worshiping by  
serving?**

**Are you aware of your gifts  
so you can serve how God's  
Spirit gifted you to?**



When did the early church meet?



The church gathered together (they didn't "go to church") on Sunday nights. They met in homes and had a meal together along with teaching and prayer. What do you think they wore?



The Passover Meal was a full meal that Jewish believers held every year to remember that God rescued them from Egypt . Parts of the meal had symbolic meaning to remind them of the story.



At the “last supper” which was a Passover meal – Jesus told His followers to “remember” Him as He held one of the cups of wine and bread (symbolizing His blood and body).

The church gathered for a communal meal every Sunday night which was “the Lord’s Supper” and would remember Jesus when they had wine and bread during the meal.





Justin Martyr was a philosopher and defender of Christianity who was martyred in Rome in about 165. He was the author of *First Apology*, *Second Apology*, and *Dialogue with Trypho the Jew*.

*On the day called Sunday there is a gathering together in the same place of all who live in a given city or rural district. The memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits. Then when the reader ceases, the president in a discourse admonishes and urges the imitation of these good things. Next we all rise together and send up prayers.*

*When we cease from our prayer, bread is presented and wine and water. The president in the same manner sends up prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people sing out their assent, saying the “Amen.”*

*A distribution and participation of the elements for which thanks have been given is made to each person, and to those who are not present they are sent by the deacons.*

*Those who have means and are willing, each according to his own choice, gives what he wills, and what is collected is deposited with the president. He provides for the orphans and widows, those who are in need on account of sickness or some other cause, those who are in bonds, strangers who are sojourning, and in a word he becomes the protector of all who are in need.*

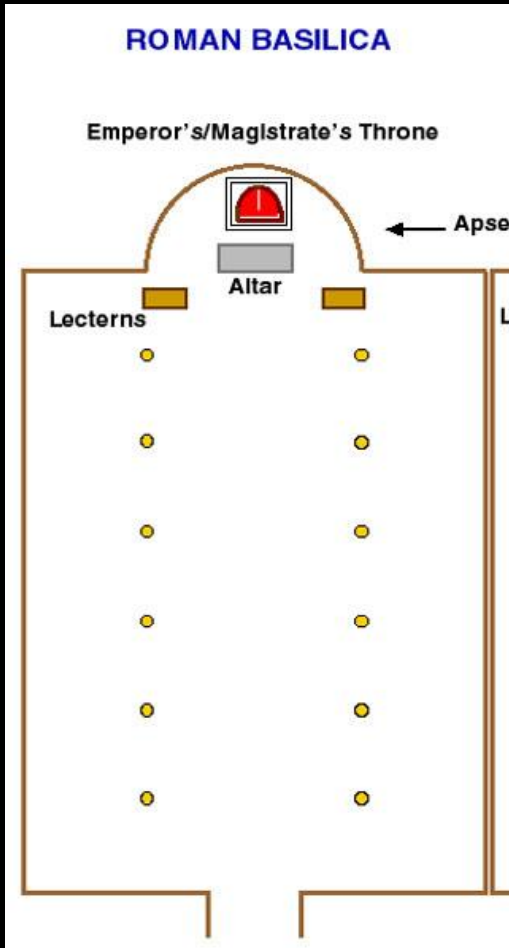
*We all make our assembly in common on Sunday, since it is the first day, on which God changed the darkness and matter and made the world, and Jesus Christ our Savior arose from the dead on the same day. For they crucified him on the day before Saturn's day, and on the day after (which is the day of the Sun) he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught these things, which we have offered for your consideration.*

*How does this compare to average church gatherings today? What is similar and what is different?*

*What do you think Justin would say if he walked into your church's gathering today?*



Art was used to capture the stories  
of the Bible and life of the church



When the Emperor Constantine made Christianity an official religion in 313 AD, Christians were free to erect permanent buildings. They did so by using the plan of the most common architectural design of public buildings, the Basilica, which was the Roman law court.

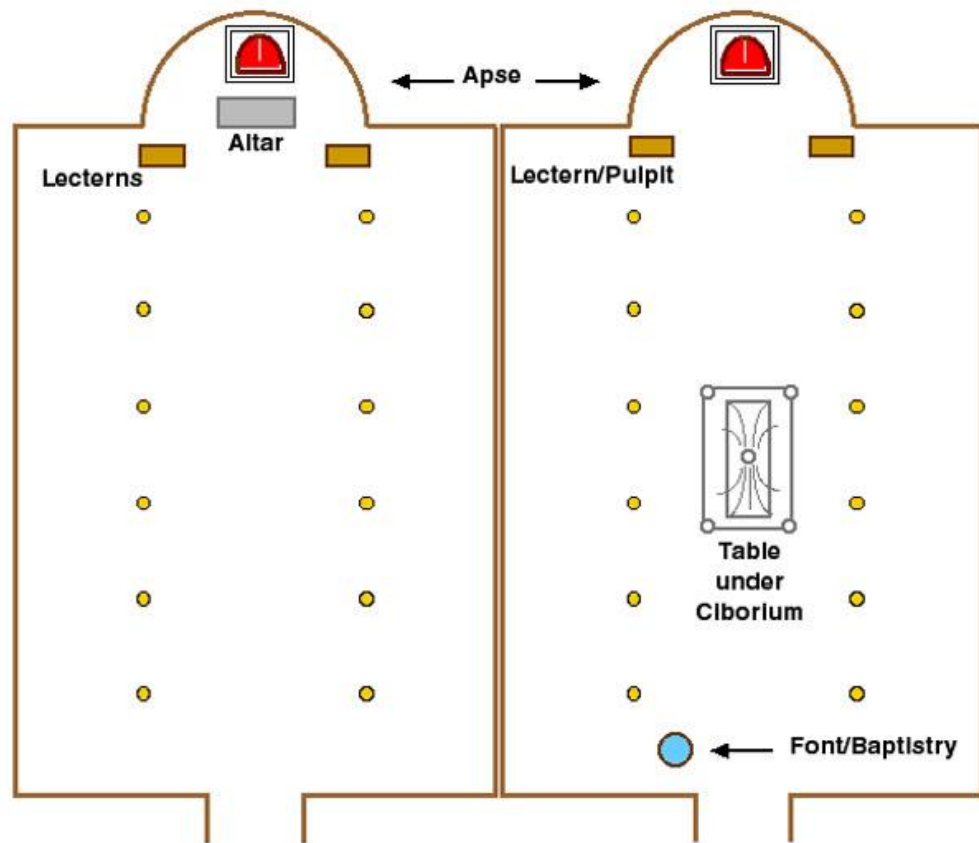


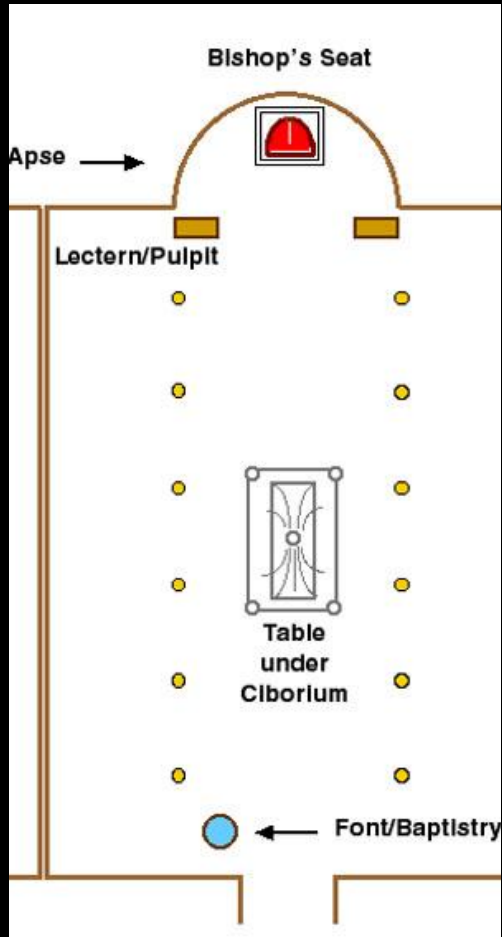
## ROMAN BASILICA

## CHRISTIAN BASILICA

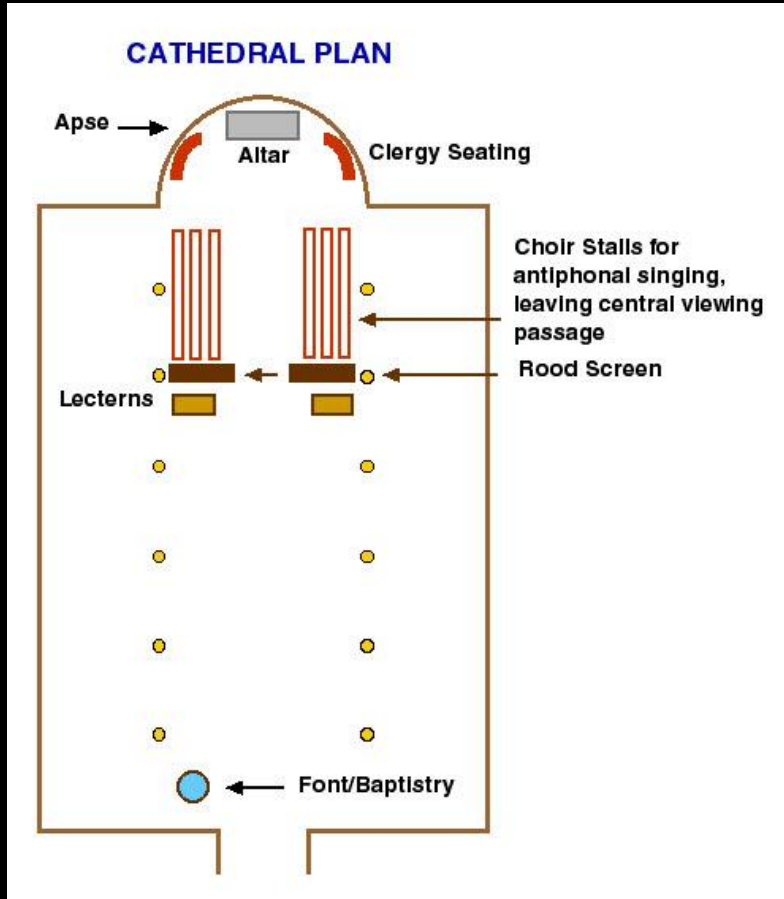
Emperor's/Magistrate's Throne

Bishop's Seat





With this new “stage” and pulpit area in the chancel, the “sermon” was developed, which adopted a Greek and Roman communication style of formal oration using “points” and other dramatic techniques.



Through time, the “table” was moved to the stage area as people to keep people from crowding around it. Choirs were added – but in a way that wouldn’t block the “table” (altar).



Stained glass images were added to churches because the people had neither access to the Bible, nor the ability to read it.



The organ was a controversial instrument being brought into the church because it represented the instrument that signaled the entry of pagan kings.



Because the Bible was written in Latin, few but the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church could read it. Eventually, the leaders used this power to control people and add wealth to the church.

The Reformation in the 1500's focused on the Scriptures' teaching that salvation comes through grace not by works or by giving money.



Stained glass was removed from many churches at this time because of the belief that art or images of Jesus amounts to idolatry.

The pulpit was elevated even more until it became the central focus in church architecture – a response to the previous lack of true teaching and access to the Bible.



This is the time period when the title of “pastor” began being used instead of “priest”.





Benches were initially added around the outside of the room for the elderly and sick in the 1300's.

Following the Reformation, when the pulpit and sermon became the focal point, benches (pews) were added so people could sit through a sermon.



*“For a thousand years and more they had been on their feet; now their attention was fixed in a single direction. The nave, which had been entirely movement space, now was mostly seating, with movement limited to the aisles. Such acts as prostration were no longer feasible.”*

*--The Oxford History of  
Christian Worship.*

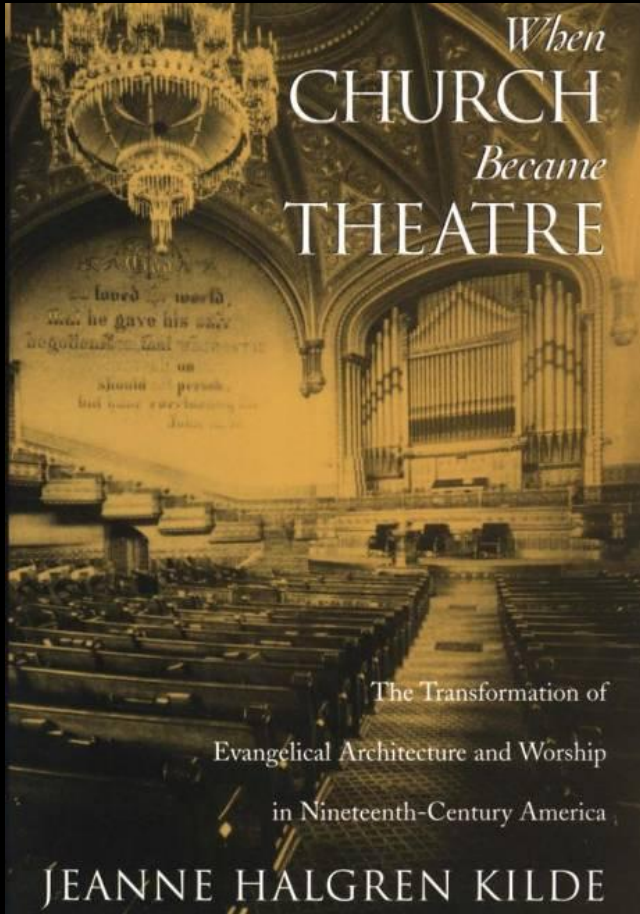




The original purpose of the robe was to indicate that the wearer had the authority of academic credentials. John Calvin started the tradition of wearing academic robes in church. He was not able to wear vestments because he was not ordained clergy, but he did have an academic law degree. For that reason, clergy robes are most common in churches that are in the Reformed tradition, such as Presbyterian churches.

With some worship practices changed moving from a communal “love feast” (Jude 12: 2 Peter 2:13) meal to a little plastic cup and piece of bread





*When*  
CHURCH  
*Became*  
THEATRE

The Transformation of  
Evangelical Architecture and Worship  
in Nineteenth-Century America

JEANNE HALGREN KILDE







# THEATERS

## 30 SERMONS NOW IN PROGRESS

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 U / GOD = PERFECT PAIR  | 5 HLY COM'NION      |
| 2 SURVIVE TEEN YEARS      | 6 WHO IS H. SPIRIT  |
| 3 REEL ANSWERS FROM BIBLE | 7 GOD'S PLAN 4 YR 8 |
| 4 GENESIS STUDY CONT.     | 8 ASK SEEK KNOCK    |

## NURSERY



Without understanding the purpose of church and what worship is or isn't, we then start worship wars, passive vs. spectator etc.

"I am no music scholar, but I feel I know appropriate church music when I hear it. Last Sunday's new hymn - if you can call it that - sounded like a sentimental love ballad one would expect to hear crooned in a saloon. If you insist on exposing us to rubbish like this - in God's house! - don't be surprised if many of the faithful look for a new place to worship. The hymns we grew up with are all we need."

- This letter was written in **1863** and the song they were concerned about was the hymn "*Just As I Am*".

"What is wrong with the inspiring hymns with which we grew up? When I go to church, it is to worship God, not to be distracted with learning a new hymn. Last Sunday's was particularly unnerving. The tune was un-singable and the new harmonies were quite distorting."

---This letter was written in 1890 and about the hymn "What A Friend We Have In Jesus".

We have to be very careful, even with good intentions that we aren't creating an American Idol form of how people view church and worship and select churches.

