

Spiritual Mindedness – Lesson 10

Responses to Worship: Unregenerate vs Believer (Chapters 14–15)

Memory Verse

Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

Summary of Chapters 14–15

Chapters 14 and 15 explore the contrast between carnal and spiritual delight in religious worship. Owen shows that false delight often centers on externals—beauty, tradition, or moral comfort—while true spiritual delight is driven by the heart's love for God, desire for Truth, and communion with Him through Christ.

Key Themes

- ✓ False delight in worship arises from natural affections
- ✓ The unregenerate offer worship to receive approval and mercy
- ✓ Services that inform, entertain and reassure are attractive to those who are unregenerate
- ✓ True delight flows from love for God and spiritual renewal
- ✓ Spiritually minded people find joy in God's presence
- ✓ Believers long for the means of grace and fellowship with Christ

Reading Assignment

- 📖 Chapters 14–15 of *Spiritual-Mindedness* by John Owen

What Draws Us to Worship

Aspect	Unregenerate	Scripture	Believer	Scripture
Source of Delight	External attractions: music, oratory, ceremonies	John 5:35	Christ's presence and spiritual communion	Psalms 84:1-2
What They See	Entertainment and performance	Ezekiel 33:31-32	Means of grace and fellowship with God	Revelation 3:20
Purpose	Pacify conscience, gain reputation, superstitious fear	Luke 18:11-12	Meet with God, exercise faith, receive grace	Psalms 63:1-2
Trust	Their own religious performance	Romans 10:3	Christ's righteousness by faith	Romans 5:1

Their Heart Condition

Aspect	Unregenerate	Scripture	Believer	Scripture
Heart State	Covetous, unchanged, pursuing worldly gain	Ezekiel 33:31	Transformed by grace, seeking God above all	2 Corinthians 3:18
Response to Word	"Very lovely song" - hear but don't obey	Ezekiel 33:32	"Pure milk" - desire it for spiritual growth	1 Peter 2:2-3
Experience	No taste of grace - external only	John 3:12	Taste that the Lord is gracious	1 Peter 2:3
Duration	Temporary - like seed on rocky ground	Matthew 13:20-21	Permanent - rooted in spiritual life	John 15:5

Effects of Worship

Aspect	Unregenerate	Scripture	Believer	Scripture
View of Ordinances	End in themselves	Jeremiah 7:22-23	Means to stir up faith and love	Hebrews 10:24-25
Effect on Soul	Remains unchanged, returns to sin	Isaiah 29:13	Strengthened, sanctified, renewed	Isaiah 40:31
Lasting Impact	Withers when trials come	Mark 4:16-17	Grow stronger through difficulties	Romans 5:3-5
Ultimate Satisfaction	In having performed the duty	Matthew 6:5	In experiencing God's presence and love	Psalms 16:11