



# Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

## Stealing Worship?

Thursday 2/28/2019

**Verse for the week: 1 Chronicles 16:23-25 (NLT) “Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. 24 Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. 25 Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.**

Our church recently raised funds for new chairs for our sanctuary. We spent \$5098.50 for 150 new chairs. I personally dreamed of having new chairs for about 15 years and now it was coming to fruition. Everyone was so excited. From the time we ordered them until delivery would be just four weeks. Four weeks came and went and I was told that they were delayed. I emailed, called, and even stopped by... and weeks become months. Then there were no responses to my emails, my phone calls were not answered, the website was nowhere to be found and their Facebook site went missing. I found out that the company went bankrupt. I was devastated. Not really-- just annoyed because we had no chairs and they had a lot of money donated by kind-hearted people who didn't necessarily have the money to give. I now had the disturbing job of telling them what had happened. It was hard to do, but the response was totally different than I anticipated. Those who gave the most shared that even if there weren't any chairs, they would still come to church because they didn't come to sit on comfy chairs, they came to worship God. They shared that their worship couldn't be stolen. Their attitudes reminded me of Viktor Frankl, Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist as well as a Holocaust survivor, when he said, *“The one thing you can't take away from me is the way I choose to respond to what you do to me.”* God is greater than chairs, buildings, nations, and the universe. Paul said in Philippians 4:11b **“I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.”** Why? Because God is greater than all and when our heart is right, they can't steal our joy or our worship of Him.

**Psalm 95:1-3,6 (NLT) 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. 3 For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. 6 Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,**

**Challenge Question:** What are you allowing to distract you from focusing on God and worshipping Him?

**Follow-up:** After I shared with the congregation, I did not have to fund raise within the church. We host Scouts here at PFWC, and the Scout Families ended up giving \$1000.00 towards more new chairs. In addition, an anonymous person who had heard about the situation and had been touched by our church, but did not attend regularly, also gave \$5000.00. We now have new chairs. God is GREAT all the time!!!