

Scriptural and Spiritual Worship

“But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:23-24

Introduction:

There are three simple aspects about worship revealed in Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. First, true worship infers that there is a way of false worship. Second, worship is to be conducted in "*spirit*" for God is a spirit. Thirdly, worship is to be conducted in accordance with truth. Fellowship will be broke or maintained with God based on one's attitude toward worship!

I. True worship verses false worship:

- A. The Word of God reveals a designated attitude to be acceptable to God (cf. Prov. 1:7; Isa. 57:15; 66:2; Jer. 17:9; Acts 10:2, 22, 35; Col. 3:17; I Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:7).
- B. The Word of God reveals unacceptable worship (Isa. 1:10-17; Matt. 15:8-9; Acts 17:22-28; Gal. 4:8-11; Col. 2:20-23).

II. Worship is to be conducted in spirit for God is a spirit:

- A. The "*spirit*" is a "spiritual being... a bodiless spirit... a soul" (Moulton 331). Worship to the Father must take into consideration His being.
- B. Isaiah said, "*Thus saith Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what manner of house will ye build unto me? For all these things hath my hand made, and so all these things came to be, saith Jehovah*" (66:11-2; cf. Acts 7:48).
- C. Our worship to God will not move us to build grand architectural wonders to worship Him in because He is not there (Acts 7:48; 17:24). God is within (I Cor. 6:19) as is His kingdom (Lk. 17:21).

III. Worship is to be conducted in truth:

- A. Jesus said that any acceptable worship must be conducted in truth (Jn. 4:23).
- B. Those who belong to God are those instructed in truth (Isa. 54:13; Jer. 9:23-24; Jn. 6:44-45).
- C. Truth directs and instructs man that he may please the Father (Duet. 12:32; Jn. 14:6; Eph. 1:13; II Tim. 1:13; Heb. 8:5).
- D. Truth reveals five acts of worship in the first day of the week assembly:
 - 1. Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-24).
 - 2. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16 etc.).
 - 3. Praying (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 2:8).
 - 4. Giving of our means on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7).
 - 5. Gospel preaching (Acts 20:7).

Conclusion:

The law of Christ reveals an acceptable attitude and manner of worship. The OT reveals times when unacceptable worship occurred and God was not pleased. Let us strive to follow God's instructions for worship with an attitude of fear and reverence. Fellowship with God will be maintained when contrite hearts approach God in worship (Ps. 34:18, 51:17; Isa. 57:15, 66:2).