

TITLE: TRUE WORSHIP

TEXT: JOHN 4:24

READ John 4:21-24

INTRO: It is always my great honor, privilege, blessing, and *awesome responsibility* to stand before you to speak on God's behalf through the word. It is always **your** responsibility to be like the Bereans, to know the scriptures and to make sure that what I'm saying is in correct. For years, failure to do so has led the church into apostasy, through the gradual acceptance of things unauthorized – both in the worship and out of the worship.

I. WHAT WORSHIP IS NOT:

- A. Not all of life is worship
 - 1. Gen 22 – Abraham said he and Isaac were *going* to the mountain to worship
 - 2. Acts 8 – The eunuch had been in Jerusalem for *to worship*
- B. Not all of worship is accepted
 - 1. Gen 4 – Cain's worship wasn't acceptable. He worshipped but wasn't a true worshipper
 - 2. Matt 15:1-9 – their heart is far from me...their worship is in vain
 - 3. Acts 17:23 – Paul in Athens – “what you ignorantly worship, I will declare to you”
 - 4. Col 2:23 – Colossian heresy – will worship – what *I* want, not what *God* wants

II. WORSHIP DEFINED:

- A. To honor or ascribe worth; Webster: “the ceremony to express love and devotion to a deity”
- B. Greek: Proskuneo
 - 1. To prostrate oneself; reverence or adore
 - 2. To fall on the knees and touch the ground with your forehead as an expression of profound reverence
- C. Worship involves Sacrifice:
 - 1. 2 Sam 24:24 – David would not sacrifice something that *cost him nothing!*
 - 2. Heb 13:15 – “let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God...the fruit of our lips”
- D. Worship involves Attitude: Heb 11:17 – Abraham “offered his son,” though he never had to kill him, he was *willing*

III. WHAT WORSHIP IS (JOHN 4:23-24):

Consider the statement heard so often: “I didn't get anything out of worship this morning!”

- A. We **must** worship **GOD** (and *only* God – Acts 10; Rev 19:10)
 - Who do we come together to worship? Why worship God? **You must ask yourself this question. If you want to make your worship meaningful, answer this question truthfully.**
 - 1. Commanded (Jn 4:23 – the Father seeketh such to worship him) – YES, God wants YOUR WORSHIP!
 - 2. But this shouldn't be our *only* motivation.
 - **Because of what he's done for us (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8)
 - What is it that GOD wants? Doesn't that matter to us?
- B. We **must** worship Him in **TRUTH**
 - 1. What is truth? John 17:17 – God's word is truth. The Bible is God's word (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21)
 - 2. Col 3:17 – Do *all* in the name (authority) of the Lord.
 - 3. Therefore, we must worship according to God's word, and only according to God's word.
 - E.g., we have no authority in God's word for instrumental music in worship. God never wanted it.
- C. We **must** worship Him in **SPIRIT**
 - 1. He is spirit...so He is not to be limited to mountains, temples, etc. **READ Acts 17:24-30**
 - 2. Before God gave commandments in Deut 6, he said, “Love me with all your heart!” He wants you heart first.
 - Then** you'll want to do things the way God wants them done.
 - 3. Worship is Active, not passive.

CONCLUSION: Where is your heart this morning? Did you come here with the correct intentions and motivation?