

Introduction

There are all kinds of worship taking place today. Some meet for worship services on Saturday; others partake of the Lord's Supper on different days of the week; most use instrumental music; others say they can worship God at home as well or better than they can in a church service. There are jumping jacks for Christ, Cowboy church, and on and on we could go. But Jesus made a simple statement to a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well that we need to pay close attention to, "God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Worship In Spirit

I know that I must worship God with the proper spirit, which means that I must have the right attitude toward God. To worship God with the proper spirit I must understand Who God is and who I am. God is the Creator, the Master of the physical and spiritual realms. The apostle Paul affirms that "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:24-28). I must understand that I am created by God to serve Him. The people of

Nehemiah's day understood what the proper attitude toward God's Word should be (Nehemiah 8:1-6). When Ezra read God's Word, "...all the people stood up: And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground (Nehemiah 8:5-6).

To worship God with the right attitude I will give Him all praise. I will praise His Word (Psalm 56:4). I will praise God with all my heart and glorify His name (Psalm 86:12). I will greatly praise God among the masses (Psalm 109:30). I will praise God with all my heart (Psalm 111:1).

Worship In Truth

I know what worship in spirit and in truth is because I can know what truth is (John 8:32) and where it can be found (John 17:17). To know how to worship God in spirit and in truth, I must diligently study God's Word and accept God's truth (2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:22; Matthew 7:24-25). There is no such thing as our own "interpretation" of God's Word. Look at the baseball rule book as an example. If one ball team wanted to play another ball team, they would have to use the same rules. One team could not run clockwise around the bases and the other team run counterclockwise around them without vast confusion. The manager of the second team could bring the rule book and show where the rule states that the direction the runners go around the bases is counterclockwise. The manager of the other team could say, "That is just your

interpretation," but that would not change the rules. It is the same with God's Word. God said what He means and means what He says (Deuteronomy 6:1-2; Proverbs 30:6). Human "interpretations" of God's commands only bring vast confusion. We must go to God's Word with the attitude that we will accept all He says without argument.

Authorized Worship

I know what worship in spirit and in truth requires because God has revealed it in His Word. Worship in spirit and in truth requires me to be present when the church is assembled (Hebrews 10:25-26; 13:17; Matthew 6:33). There is not a bare minimum that I can get away with when it comes to my being present when the church assembles. Seeking God's kingdom first in my life will not allow me to miss the assemblies of the church for any of the excuses that are used. I may be too ill to attend, but most every other "reason" given to miss the assemblies is just an excuse.

Worship in spirit and in truth requires me to give as God has commanded. I must give on the first day of the week as God has prospered me (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). I must give sacrificially, first giving myself to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). I must plan my giving and give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7). I must learn to trust God (Mark 12:41-43).

Worship in spirit and in truth requires me to partake of the Lord's supper only on every first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2) and in the right manner (1 Corinthians 11:20-29). There is no authority given in God's Word for partaking of the Lord's supper on any

other day. I must remember the Lord's death as I partake of the proper emblems. The proper emblems are the fruit of the vine (unfermented grape juice – Matthew 26:27-29) and unleavened bread (Matthew 26:17, 26). If I partake in an unworthy manner (not considering the Lord's body and what He did for me) then I am condemning myself.

Worship in spirit and in truth requires me to sing praises to God (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Both of these passages require that the singing be from the heart and not accompanied by any mechanical instrument of music or anything like it.

Worship in spirit and in truth requires that prayer be offered properly. We are to pray to God the Father through the name of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:9-13; Acts 4:23-31). Prayers must be offered by faithful men (1 Timothy 2:8). Prayers are not allowed to be led by women when Christian males are present (1 Timothy 2:11-14). Our prayers must be according to the will of God (James 4:3).

Worship in spirit and in truth requires that God's Word be taught properly (2 Timothy 4:1-4). The subject of preaching is the Word of God, not funny or entertaining stories, world issues, or what happened to me this week. The time of preaching is instant (now), in season (when it is wanted), and out of season (when it is not wanted). The means of preaching is to reprove, rebuke and exhort. The demeanor of preaching is with all long suffering and doctrine (2 John 9-11). The reason for preaching is that they will not endure sound doctrine and to encourage the saved (1 Timothy 4:16). Women are not authorized to teach or preach when Christian males are present (1

Timothy 2:11-14; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

I can go through the motions of worshiping God in truth and not worship Him with the right attitude. God will not accept the worship of a hypocrite (Malachi 1:6-8, 12-14; Micah 6:6-8). When we pretend to be pious and live the rest of the week like the world we are condemned by God. When we leave services and take that drink of alcohol, smoke that cigarette or chew that tobacco, go back to our fornicating ways, lie, cheat in business, buy that lottery ticket, curse, dress immodestly, try to get revenge on others, throw temper tantrums, watch ungodly programs, listen to ungodly music, etc. we cannot worship God acceptably (Luke 6:46; Matthew 23:27-28).

Conclusion

“God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). I know how to worship God in spirit and in truth because: (1) I understand Who God is and who I am. (2) I can know the truth and where it is found. (3) God has revealed in His Word how I must worship Him. I also know that for God to accept my worship I must live a righteous life through the week.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the
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“*I Know*”

To hear or view the complete lesson go to
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I Know...

What Worship In Spirit And In Truth Is

by
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