

“Worship In Spirit And In Truth”

By: Michael R. Hughes

Text: John 4:23,24

**Theme: To understand the proper perspectives
about worship.**

Introduction:

1. The general argument for the existence of God.
2. Relate the incidents of the story of John 4.
3. Will be discussing the general subject of worship.
4. We are worshipping this morning.

Discussion:

- I. What is worship?
 - A. Definitions:
 1. Worship in general is an act of reverence to a divine being or a supposedly divine being.
 2. Christian worship is that which is involved in giving reverence and honor to the Godhead as directed by the teachings of the New Testament.
 - a. The Christian who neglects worship will surely bring sorrow upon himself and upon his family.
 - b. “Worship renews the spirit as sleep renews the body.” Richard Clark Cabot.
 - B. Kinds of worship.
 1. Ignorant worship -
 - a. Acts 17:23.
 - b. Very blind, no guidance, just whatever they thought.

2. Will worship - Colossians 2:23.
 - a. That which is according to the pleasures of the worshippers.
 - b. A disregard for that which is written.
3. Vain worship - Matthew 15:9.
 - a. Very akin to will worship.
 - b. Established traditions.
 - c. But - the traditions of men rather than the tradition of God.
4. In spirit and in truth - John 4:24.
 - a. This is the acceptable worship.
 - b. It gives us the acceptable formula for acceptable worship.

II. Acceptable worship - in spirit and in truth - John 4:24.

A. The right object - God.

1. Almost every namable object has been considered by someone as an object of worship.
 - a. Self, pleasure, worldly ambitions, fame, pride, money, sports.
 - b. Greek and Roman mythology - our planets are named after these gods. Other cultures also.
 - c. And even believers in God have departed from the pattern.
 - 1) Exodus 32 - while Moses was up in the mount receiving instructions from God, the people talked Aaron into making a golden calf.
 - 2) II Kings 18:4 - Hezekiah had the brazen serpent destroyed.
 - 3) Acts 10:25,26 - Peter would not allow himself to be worshipped.
 - 4) Revelation 19:10 - Not proper to worship angels these things still continue.
2. But God is the proper object of our worship.
 - a. Exodus 20:3-5.
 - b. John 4:24.
 - c. I Peter 4:11.
3. And thank God for the great examples in the Bible.
 - a. Daniel.

- b. Meshach, Shadrach, Abednego.
- c. Christ.
- 4. They knew God to be the proper object of our worship.
 - a. He is:
 - 1) All wise.
 - 2) All powerful.
 - 3) All present.
 - 4) All loving.
 - 5) All righteous.
- B. The right attitude- in spirit.
 - 1. God is a spirit - not material form.
 - 2. Hence, he must be worshipped in spirit.
 - 3. We must possess the divine character.
 - a. I John 4:8,20,21.
 - b. Matthew 5:23,24.
- C. The right way - in truth.
 - 1. John 17:17.
 - 2. In accordance with the teachings of the Bible.
 - 3. Hebrews 8:5 - must do all things as shown.

Conclusion:

- 1. The New Testament gives us a pattern for worshipping God through Jesus Christ.
- 2. The disciples -
 - a. Prayed to God.
 - 1) Acts 2:42.
 - 2) Through Christ.
 - a) I Timothy 2:5.
 - b) It is not the truth to pray through Mary.
 - b. Observed the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week - Acts 20:7
 - 1) Any other time is error (not in truth).
 - 2) Why would one want to change it anyway? (in spirit).
 - c. Gave of their means - I Corinthians 16:1,2.
 - d. Taught the sacred scriptures - Acts 17:11.
 - e. Sang songs and made melody in the heart.
 - 1) Ephesians 5:19.

- 2) Instruments are neither in truth nor in spirit.

Invitation:

Must obey God's pattern in becoming a Christian.