

# True Worship

Mar 2, 2025

*"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him..." (John 4:23)*

**INTRO**—Is God just a petty, arrogant being who demands worship and praise to feed His ego, or is there a more noble reason for Him desiring worship? Does God seek extravagant, entertaining, outward expressions of worship, or just simple, heart-felt expressions that spring from deep within (Philippians 3:3)? Man glories in outwardly impressive displays, whereas God glories in the inward movement that articulates itself in worship.

## I. TRUE WORSHIP

**A. Five Kinds Of Worship.** Among religious activities, we see many different expressions of worship toward God—describe each of them.

- Ignorant (Acts 17:23)—
- Vain (Matthew 15:8-9)—
- Self-righteous (Luke 18:9-14)—
- Self-imposed (Colossians 2:23)—
- Spiritual (John 4:23-24)—

**B. Worship In Spirit And Truth (John 4:19-24).** What is Jesus telling us about the nature of worship? The common explanation is that worship is to include the right spirit and the right actions. But notice Jesus is making a contrast between two expressions of worship, to this woman at the well (John 4:21).

- Did Old Testament worship require the right spirit and right actions (Psalm 24:3-6; Isaiah 1:10-15; Malachi 1:6-14)?
- Does New Testament worship require the right spirit and right actions (Matthew 15:7-9)?
- What is the contrast then? What would be the difference between Old Testament and New Testament worship—between what Moses brought and Jesus brought (John 1:17; Colossians 2:14,16-17; Hebrews 8:4-6; 9:9-10; 10:1-4)?
- What is necessary for us to be true worshippers (John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3)?
- Would it be right, wrong, or indifferent if we went back to the worship of the Old Testament law (Hebrews 9:9-15; Romans 7:1-6; Galatians 5:1-4)?

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**CONCLUSION**—It is very important that our expressions of worship to God be consistent with His will and be from the depths of our hearts. God despises worship that is done only for show. True worship has graduated from the outward aspects of the Old Testament law to the inward expression of the New Testament law. Let us keep it on that high spiritual plane.