

THE MEANING OF TRUE WORSHIP

John 4:19-26

(John 4:19-26), “The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. {20} Our fathers worshiped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. {21} Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. {22} Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. {23} But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **TRUE WORSHIPERS** shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. {24} God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. {25} The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. {26} Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.”



THE WOMAN SAID TO JESUS,
(V. 19 NKJV), “. . . ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.’”

THE THREE PREVIOUS VERSES REVEAL WHAT CAUSED THE WOMAN TO CONCLUDE THAT JESUS WAS A PROPHET.

- JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN,
(V. 16 NKJV), “. . . ‘Go, call your husband, and come here.’”
- THE WOMAN ANSWERED JESUS,
(V. 17a NKJV), “. . . ‘I have no husband.’ . . . ”
- JESUS SAID TO HER,
(V. 17b-18 NKJV), “. . . “You have well said, I have no husband, {18} for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.””

THE WOMAN IMMEDIATELY KNEW JESUS WAS A PROPHET BECAUSE Jesus told her things about herself that He had no way of knowing except He had **SUPERHUMAN KNOWLEDGE**. Jesus’ knowledge of her secret life **CONFIRMED** for her that Jesus was **NO ORDINARY PERSON**.

A SIMILAR THING CONVINCED NATHANAEL that Jesus was EXTRA ORDINARY. JESUS SAID TO NATHANAEL:

(John 1:48 NKJV), “. . . ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’”

Nathanael was so impressed with what Jesus had said to him that he said to Jesus:

(John 1:49 NKJV), “. . . ‘Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’”

THE ONLY WAY JESUS COULD HAVE KNOWN Nathanael was under the fig tree was for Jesus to have had **SUPERNATURAL KNOWLEDGE**.

IN LIKE MANNER, the only way Jesus could have known the woman’s relationship with six different men was for Jesus to have had **“ALL KNOWLEDGE”** (i.e., **OMNISCIENCE**).

- (1) **(Psa 94:9)**, “He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?”
- (2) **(Prov 5:21 NIV)**, “For a man’s ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.”

NOW, BECAUSE JESUS’ KNOWLEDGE OF HER PAST was **TOO DISCOMFORTING**, SHE **REDIRECTED THE CONVERSATION** onto a different subject. SHE **CHANGED THE TOPIC** FROM HER OWN PERSONAL LIFE and focused it on THE LONG-STANDING **CONTROVERSY** between Jews and Samaritans. That subject ALWAYS PROVIDED A GOOD SOURCE FOR **AN ARGUMENT**.

THE WOMAN SAID

(V. 20), **“OUR FATHERS WORSHIPED in THIS MOUNTAIN;** and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

JESUS SAID

(V. 21), “Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in **THIS MOUNTAIN**, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.”

S CONSIDER **TWO PHRASES** IN THE EXCHANGE OF WORDS BETWEEN THE WOMAN AND JESUS:

- **“OUR FATHERS WORSHIPED”**
- And **“IN THIS MOUNTAIN.”**

The mountain where they worshiped was **MOUNT GERIZIM**. The word *FATHERS* indicates a plurality of worship experiences on that mountain from the past.

(1) THE FIRST RECORDED WORSHIP EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE AT MOUNT GERIZIM WAS CONDUCTED BY ABRAHAM.

- **ABRAHAM** had left the city of **UR** and traveled with his family to a place called **HARAN**. He stayed at Haran until Terah, his father, died. After Terah's death, God told Abraham to get up from that land and go to a place He would show him. Abraham **JOURNEYED SOUTHWARD** until he came to a place called **SHECHEM** (KJV "Sichem"). **SHECHEM WAS LOCATED** in the valley BETWEEN THE TWO MOUNTAINS **EBAL** and **GERIZIM**.
- **(Gen 12:6-7 NKJV)**, "Abram passed through the land to the place of **SHECHEM**, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. {7} Then **THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAM** and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there **HE BUILT AN ALTAR** to the **LORD**, who had appeared to him."
- **BECAUSE EVERY GOOD JEW AND SAMARITAN** considered **ABRAHAM TO BE THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER**, his worshiping at Mount Gerizim would have made that place very significant in their thinking.

(2) A SECOND IMPORTANT WORSHIP EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE AT THAT MOUNTAIN is found in THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

- **AFTER ISRAEL'S VICTORY OVER THE CITY OF AI**, Joshua took the nation to **MOUNT EBAL & MOUNT GERIZIM** to worship. They built an **ALTAR** on Mount Ebal (Jos 8:30). Half of Israel stood against **MOUNT GERIZIM**, and half of against **MOUNT EBAL** (Josh 8:33). From those two mountains they shouted the blessings and the cursings as recorded in the Old Testament law (Josh 8:34).

(3) A THIRD SIGNIFICANT EVENT took place following **ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON**. After the Jews returned from Babylon, they **REFUSED TO ALLOW THE SAMARITANS**

TO HELP them rebuild at Jerusalem (Ezra 4:1-4; Neh. 2:19-20; 13:28). **AS A RESULT**, IN THE DAYS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT, the Samaritans built their own temple that competed with the temple at Jerusalem. The Samaritan temple was built **ON MOUNT GERIZIM**.

(**NOTE:** The Samaritan temple was **DESTROYED** in **128 B. C.** during the days of the **MACCABEES** by THE HASMONEAN KING **JOHN HYRCANUS**. Although their temple had been destroyed, the Samaritans continued to worship on Mount Gerizim even to the time of Jesus. It is reported that **A SMALL SAMARITAN COMMUNITY** at Nablus continues to celebrate the Passover on Mount Gerizim to this day. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers))

(4) **A FOURTH SIGNIFICANT EVENT AT THAT MOUNTAIN** TOOK PLACE IN OUR TEXT. THE WOMAN AT THE WELL SAID TO JESUS:
(V. 20), **“OUR FATHERS** worshiped in **THIS MOUNTAIN**; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

S God had made clear in the Old Testament that **ONLY ONE TEMPLE** was to be built. **JOSHUA 22** describes **A CIVIL WAR** that almost took place because it appeared as if the two and one half tribes east of the Jordan river were building a second temple.

S **THE SAMARITANS WOULD HAVE AGREED** THAT GOD ALLOWED FOR ONLY ONE TEMPLE. **THEIR DISAGREEMENT** with the Jews had to do with the location of that one temple. **THEY WERE ADAMANT** that **MOUNT GERIZIM** was **THE ACCEPTABLE LOCATION** for genuine worship because **Abraham** and **Joshua** had worshiped there.

THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE JEWS AND THE SAMARITANS REGARDING THIS ISSUE **WERE ENDLESS**. Bringing up the subject could easily become the source of **A HEATED ARGUMENT**.

JESUS DIDN'T ALLOW THAT DIGRESSION to take place with the Samaritan woman. Jesus used the change of subject to address **AN ISSUE** that was **OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE** than the **LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE**.

JESUS ADDRESSED THE MEANING OF TRUE WORSHIP.

JESUS SAID

(V. 21), “. . . Woman, believe me, **THE HOUR COMETH**, when ye shall **NEITHER IN THIS MOUNTAIN, NOR YET AT JERUSALEM**, worship the Father.”

- S THE PHRASE “**THE HOUR COMETH**” IS IN THE “**INDICATIVE MOOD**” AND “**PRESENT TENSE.**”
- **INDICATIVE MOOD** expresses a simple **assertion of certainty**. It is a **simple statement of fact**.
 - **PRESENT TENSE** in the indicative mood represents **current action**, as opposed to past or future action. The “hour” was in process of coming at that very moment. It had not yet arrived, but it was most definitely on the way.
- S **JESUS LOOKED TOWARD A TIME** in which worship would focus more on the individual, rather than on the building. Perhaps Jesus had in mind the fulfillment of 1 Corinthians 6.
- (1 Cor 6:19)**, “What? know ye not that your body is **THE TEMPLE** of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

JESUS **STIRRED THE WATERS** EVEN MORE

(V. 22), “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for **SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS.**”

- S **POINT BLANK** — JESUS SAID, “SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS.” He said it **BECAUSE IT WAS AN ACCURATE AND TRUTHFUL STATEMENT! JESUS MADE NO CONCESSIONS** to accommodate the woman’s lack of understanding in this area. Jesus stated without hesitation, “**SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS.**” Many facts from the Bible point to that reality.
- 1) **ABRAHAM** was the father to the Jewish nation. Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel. Abraham was the father of Israel, the Jewish nation.
 - 2) **THE BIBLE** is Jewish in origin.
 - 3) **THE MESSIAH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WAS A JEW**. Jesus’ death on the cross provided the opportunity for salvation to the whole world (John 14:6).
 - 4) **THE FIRST CHRISTIANS** were Jews.
 - 5) **JESUS WILL SOMEDAY RETURN** to the land of the Jews.

S JESUS WAS **QUITE "NARROW"** when He told the woman, **"SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS."** HE CERTAINLY WAS **NOT BEING "POLITICALLY CORRECT"** from a Samaritan point of view. **SUCH A VIEW IN MODERN TIMES** is not considered *politically incorrect*, either!

CONCERNING BEING NARROW, **IF ONE'S NARROWNESS IS ACCURATE and TRUTHFUL** then narrowness is a good thing.

(1) If the **PILOT** of your jet is landing on the airport runway, you want him to be just as narrow as the runway. You do not want a *broad-minded* pilot that takes liberty to land wherever he chooses.

(2) If you were to have the privilege of being a passenger on a **SPACE SHUTTLE**, you would want the **MATHEMATICIANS** who plotted your course to be quite narrow in their calculations. Their coordinates would determine whether your flight ever returned to earth. You do not want *broad-minded* mathematicians plotting your course who believe two plus two equals five.

(3) If a **SURGEON** operates on your eye, you do not want him to be *broad-minded*. You want him to be very careful where he points that laser.

S **IT IS NOT BEING CLOSE-MINDED** to state that *salvation is of the Jews* when that is in accord with God's revelation through His own Word. **IT IS NOT BEING CLOSE-MINDED** to say **JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN**, when that is what He Himself stated (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). To say anything otherwise is to be **deceptive, inaccurate and untruthful**.

S **SOMETHING TO PONDER — GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE, JEWS and SAMARITANS.** At least **four times** the N.T. tells us that God is **no respecter of persons**, i.e., God does not play *favorites* (Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11; Eph 6:9; 1 Pet 1:17). God has chosen the Jewish people for a special purpose, but that does not mean they are more important in the sight of God than any other people. It means they have a special place and purpose in God's plans. It is encouraging to realize that God has people from every nation and race in His family. Jesus said:

(Luke 13:29), "And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and

from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."

JESUS CONTINUED HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE WOMAN BY STATING:

(V. 23-24), "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the TRUE WORSHIPERS shall **WORSHIP** the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to **WORSHIP** him. {24} God is a Spirit: and they that **WORSHIP** him must **WORSHIP** him in spirit and in truth."

- S IF WE TAKE **ALL THE VERSES FROM OUR TEXT** INTO ACCOUNT, the word "WORSHIP" OCCURS **TEN TIMES** in its various forms. IT IS **QUITE CLEAR** THAT JESUS WAS ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT OF "**WORSHIP.**"
- S "**WORSHIP**" IS A **BIBLICAL MANDATE**. It is **COMMANDED** IN BOTH **O.T.** and **N.T.**

O. T. SAINTS WERE COMMANDED TO **WORSHIP** GOD:

- **(Psa 95:6)**, "'O come, let us **WORSHIP** and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."
- **(Psa 29:2)**, "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; **WORSHIP** the LORD in the beauty of holiness."
- **(Psa 66:4)**, "All the earth shall **WORSHIP** thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name."

THE OLD TESTAMENT HEBREW WORD FOR WORSHIP IS "SHACHA" (shaw-khaw'). It means to "**BOW DOWN,**" to "**PROSTRATE ONE'S SELF**" before God in **honor** and **reverence** to Him.

N. T. SAINTS ARE COMMANDED TO **WORSHIP** GOD:

- **(Mat 4:10)**, "... Thou shalt **WORSHIP** the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."
- **(Rev 14:6-7)**, "And I saw **ANOTHER ANGEL** fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, {7} **SAYING** with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and **WORSHIP HIM** that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'"

THE NEW TESTAMENT GREEK WORD FOR WORSHIP IS "PROSKUNEO." IT MEANS TO "KISS THE HAND" in token of reverence. It also implies the idea of kneeling or prostrating one's self to show honor and reverence. "Proskuneo" and "prostrate" sound alike.

THE BIBLE HAS **SEVERAL EXAMPLES** OF SUCH WORSHIP:

- **(Mat 28:9)**, “. . . Behold, Jesus met **THEM**, saying, ‘All hail.’ And they came and **HELD HIM BY THE FEET**, and **WORSHIPED** him." (When a person takes hold of another person's feet, they have to be in a position of humility.)
- **(Rev 7:11)**, “And all **THE ANGELS** stood round about the throne, and about **THE ELDERS** and **THE FOUR BEASTS**, and **FELL BEFORE THE THRONE ON THEIR FACES**, and **WORSHIPED** God,"
- **(Rev 1:17)**, “And when I saw him, **I FELL AT HIS FEET AS DEAD**. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:"

VERSE 23 **DRAWS A CONTRAST** BETWEEN SOMETHING **PRESENT** and something **FUTURE**:

(V. 23), “But **THE HOUR COMETH**, AND **NOW IS**, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father . . . ”

S **“AND NOW IS”** STANDS IN **CONTRAST** to the twice repeated statement of **“THE HOUR COMETH”** (vv. 21 & 23).

- (1) **“THE HOUR COMETH”** meant that **SOMETHING WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE**. Hindsight tells us the place of worship was about to change. People would no longer worship in either mountain. The temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed. God's new temple would be the physical body of the believer (1 Cor 6:19-20).
- (2) **“AND NOW IS”** meant that **SOMETHING WOULD REMAIN THE SAME**. The place of worship would change, BUT THE HEART OF **“WORSHIP”** would stay the same. **GOD HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT A TRUE AND GENUINE HEART FOR WORSHIP** whether it was in an O.T. Saint, or in a N.T. Saint.

TWO QUESTIONS:

QUESTION #1– WAS IT POSSIBLE for a saint in Bible days to go to the temple, and fall on his face in a prostrate position before God, and still not be worshiping God in the manner God desired? The answer is **“YES!”**
IS IT POSSIBLE today for a person to fall on their face before God in a posture of *worship* and still not be worshiping God in a manner God has desired? The answer is **“YES!”**

JESUS SPOKE THESE WORDS OF WORSHIPERS IN HIS DAY:

(Mat 15:8-9), “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. {9} But **IN VAIN THEY DO WORSHIP ME**, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

QUESTION #2– WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE THEN BETWEEN “VAIN WORSHIP” AND “TRUE WORSHIP?” Jesus said, **“In vain they do worship me.”**

S FOR TRUE WORSHIP TO TAKE PLACE, **TWO ELEMENTS** MUST ALWAYS BE **PRESENT**. JESUS MENTIONED BOTH ELEMENTS **TWICE**.

(V. 23-24), “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in **spirit** and in **truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. {24} God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in **spirit** and in **truth**.”

S **IT IS COMMON** in Scripture for something to be mentioned twice in order to draw attention to its importance. For example, Jesus often repeated the word, **“VERILY.”** In fact, the phrase, “Verily, verily,” appears 25 times in the Book of John. The **PSALMIST** would sometimes repeat a statement to highlight it. It was a way of saying, “Take this to heart and do not pass over it lightly.”

S Let’s look in detail at the two elements – **“SPIRIT”** and **“TRUTH”** – as we seek to understand what Jesus meant by **TRUE WORSHIP**.

- I. TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD INVOLVES **THE HUMAN “SPIRIT”**
- II. TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD **REQUIRES “TRUTH”**

I. TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD INVOLVES THE HUMAN “SPIRIT”

- S In verses 23-24 THE WORD "SPIRIT" IS NOT CAPITALIZED. If it had been capitalized, it would refer to the Holy Spirit. It is not capitalized because it is a reference to the *spirit of man*. **True worship** engages the *spirit of man*.
- S In order to understand what **true worship** is, it is necessary to take a significant amount of time and consider what the Bible teaches regarding the *spirit of man*. WE WILL ASK, AND ATTEMPT TO ANSWER, THREE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION #1 — WHO AM I?

- S SOME **PSYCHOLOGISTS** suggest humanity is afflicted with **AN IDENTITY CRISIS**. They suggest many of our problems are the direct result of not knowing who we are. Because folks do not know who God has made them to be, they are susceptible to every opinion that comes along. They have taken Satan's lie *hook, line and sinker*.
- S GOD TELLS US WHO WE ARE. WE ARE **BEINGS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HIMSELF**:
(Gen 1:26), "And God said, Let us make man in **OUR IMAGE**, after **OUR LIKENESS**: . . ."
- S Since we were created in God's image, we need to consider **WHO GOD IS**. That makes good sense!
- S FROM THE SCRIPTURE WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT **GOD IS A RATIONAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL and IMMORTAL BEING**. God is much more than those four adjectives describe, but He is at least that. **IT IS THEREFORE REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE** that being made in the *image of God* means WE, TOO, ARE **RATIONAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL and IMMORTAL BEINGS**.
- 1) AS **RATIONAL BEINGS**, we have THE CAPACITY TO **THINK and to WILL**. One author suggests that humanity's ability to think abstractly is what sets him apart from the animals (Martin Lloyd Jones, *The Christian Warfare*, pg. 162).
 - 2) AS **MORAL BEINGS**, we have the capacity to know the difference between **RIGHT & WRONG**. We are more than **robots** programed to act according to digital input. Being a moral being means we are **ACCOUNTABLE** to God for our actions.

- 3) AS **IMMORTAL BEINGS**, we will live forever. As God is eternal, so we are eternal. We will live forever somewhere, either in **HEAVEN or in HELL**.
- 4) AS **SPIRITUAL BEINGS**, we have the capacity to **KNOW & WORSHIP GOD WHO IS A SPIRIT**. This fourth element appears to be the **main focus** of Jesus' discussion with the woman at the well.

Because we were created in the *image of God*, we have **THE SPIRITUAL CAPACITY TO KNOW GOD AND WORSHIP GOD**. That capacity to worship God comes through our **SPIRIT**.

- **(Luke 1:47)**, "And my **SPIRIT** hath rejoiced in God my Savior."
- **(Rom 8:16)**, "The Spirit [Holy Spirit] itself beareth witness with our **SPIRIT** [human spirit], that we are the children of God."
- **(John 4:23-24)**, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in **SPIRIT** [human spirit] and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. {24} **GOD IS A SPIRIT**: and they that worship him must worship him in **SPIRIT** and in truth."
- **(Phil 3:3)**, "For we are the circumcision, which **WORSHIP** God in the **SPIRIT**, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

THE "SPIRITUAL" ASPECT OF MAN IS WHAT SETS US APART from the animals and gives us **THE CAPACITY TO KNOW AND WORSHIP GOD**.

Throughout history there has never been an account of an animal worshiping God. The explanation for the lack of animals worshiping God is they are not made in *the image of God*. God never said He made animals in His *image* as He said of mankind (Gen 1:26). God never said an animal's body was the *temple of the Holy Spirit* as He said of people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ (1 Cor 6:19). Animals are not spiritual beings with the capacity to know and worship God.

QUESTION #1 — **WHO AM I?**

QUESTION #2 — WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

- S If I am a spiritual being with the capacity to know and worship God, why is worship sometimes so difficult? **SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WRONG.**
- S **THE TRUTH IS, SOMETHING IS WRONG.** *The image of God* in us was tainted by sin. **GOD TOLD ADAM & EVE:**
(Gen 2:17), “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
- S They ate and they died. But in what manner did they die? After Adam and Eve ate, they **KEPT ON** walking, breathing and talking. Their physical death was not immediate. Their **body** died years later. It wasn’t their **psyche**. Their *psyches* were adversely affected, but they continued to *will* and *think*. **THEN WHAT DIED THAT DAY THEY ATE?** It was their **spirit** that died that day. That is why the Bible refers to people as being **spiritually dead** before they come to know Christ. We can be *physically alive* and *spiritually dead* all at the same time.

- **(Eph 2:1),** “And you hath he quickened, who were **DEAD** in trespasses and sins:”
- **(Rom 6:23),** “For the wages of sin is **DEATH**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

ADAM AND EVE DIED SPIRITUALLY. The day they ate of the forbidden fruit was the day their *spirit* died.

QUESTION #1 — **WHO AM I?** I am a person who was created in the image of God with the capacity to know and worship God.

QUESTION #2 — **WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?** *The image of God* was adversely affected by my sin. My sin greatly hindered my capacity to know and worship God.

QUESTION #3 — CAN MY CAPACITY TO KNOW AND WORSHIP GOD THROUGH MY SPIRIT BE RESTORED?

- S **THE ANSWER IS YES!** Through the gift of God’s salvation, God takes our dead *spirit* and makes it live.
- **(2 Cor 5:17),** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **A NEW CREATURE**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (Through salvation, God makes us a new creation.)

- **(Eph 2:1)**, “And you hath he **QUICKENED**, who were dead in trespasses and sins:” (The word “quicken” means to be made alive. God takes our dead *spirit* and performs a miracle that makes it live again.)
- **(John 3:3)**, “. . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **BORN AGAIN**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

S We will never be able to **WORSHIP GOD IN OUR “SPIRIT” APART FROM A REVIVED SPIRIT**. A person must be born again spiritually in order to worship God in a manner acceptable to God.

S IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT **DISCOVERING PURPOSE IN LIFE HAS MORE TO DO WITH OUR “SPIRIT” THAN IT HAS TO DO WITH OUR “BODIES,” OR OUR “PSYCHES.”** In fact, the people who concentrate on finding meaning in life based on the “psyche” alone, will always miss the mark. Life will never make sense apart from God’s salvation.

- **(1 Cor 2:14)**, “But **THE NATURAL MAN** receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- The **GREEK WORD FOR “SOUL” IS “PSUCHE.”** THE GREEK WORD FOR “**NATURAL MAN**” in 1 Cor. 2:14 IS “**PSUCHIKOS**” (psoo-khee-kos’). It could be translated “**THE SOULICAL MAN.**” *THE SOULICAL MAN* will never worship God because he rejects the spiritual aspect of man. His concentration is upon his *mind, will and emotion*, rather than upon his *spirit* where man communes with God. A *soulical* person might go through some exercise they call *worship*, but it will never be what God calls *true worship*.

S **CONSIDER THREE DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP.** Each definition makes reference to the *spirit of man*.

(1) **WILLIAM BARCLAY**

“**The true, the genuine worship** is when man, through the spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible.” (William Barclay, *The Gospel of John*, vol 1 page 154; James Boice, *The Gospel of John*, Vol 1, pg. 366)

(2) **JAMES BOICE**

"**True worship occurs when** that part of man, his spirit, which is akin to the divine nature (for God is spirit), actually meets with God and finds itself praising Him for His love, wisdom, beauty, truth, holiness, compassion, mercy, grace, power, and all His other attributes." (James Boice, *The Gospel of John*, Vol 1, pg. 366)

- (3) **WORSHIP IS** the outpouring of one's spirit in love, adoration and devotion to God. Sometimes that adoration takes the form of **PRAISE**. At times worship can take the form of **CONFESSION**.

I. TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD INVOLVES **THE HUMAN "SPIRIT"**

II. TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD REQUIRES "TRUTH"

(V. 23-24), "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in **TRUTH**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. {24} God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in **TRUTH**."

- S TO WORSHIP GOD IN "**TRUTH**," MEANS MANY THINGS. CONSIDER **THREE**:

#1. TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES A HEART OF TRUTH

(V. 23), "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **TRUE** WORSHIPERS shall worship . . . "

- S THE WORD "**TRUE**" STANDS IN CONTRAST to the word "**FALSE**." If there is such a thing as "**TRUE WORSHIP**," there is also such a thing as "**FALSE WORSHIP**," i.e., **pretend** worship; **counterfeit** worship; **fake** worship.

NATHANAEL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A "TRUE WORSHIPER"

(John 1:47), "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is **NO GUILE!**"

- S "**NO GUILE**" MEANS "**no decoy**," "**no bait**," "**no trick**," "**no deceit**." Because Nathanael believed Jesus and had no deceit in his worship, Jesus made a wonderful promise to him.

(John 1:50-51), "Jesus answered and said unto him,

Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree,
believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. {51}
And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God
ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

- S GOD MAKES A WONDERFUL **PROMISE TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HIM WITHOUT DECEIT. JESUS SAID IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**
(Mat 5:8), "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

AT ONE STAGE IN HIS LIFE, **KING DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A "FALSE WORSHIPER."**

- S **DAVID HAD MURDERED URIAH** and committed **ADULTERY** with BATHSHEBA and then pretended as if nothing was wrong. For approximately one year, David tried to conceal his sin, rather than confess it. David still went through the motion of worship, but he was miserable. If you doubt his misery, just read **Psalm 32**. He was not living a sincere and truthful life before God. As a result, David had become the whipping boy of the devil.
- S **PSALM 51** is the record of David's eventual confession. It took him about one year to get to the place where he would acknowledge his treachery and confess it to God. Listen for the word "truth" as David made confession to God.

(Psa 51:6), "Behold, thou **DESIREST TRUTH** in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."

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- S **IT IS EASY TO PRETEND** in worship. A person can be in the place of worship, going through the ritual of worship, and not really be worshiping in the sight of God. Perhaps that is what Jesus was referring to in the fifth chapter of Matthew.

(Mat 5:23-24), "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; {24} Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

- S JESUS SPOKE OF "**PRETEND WORSHIPERS**" IN THE BOOK

OF MARK.

(Mark 7:6-7), "... Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. {7} Howbeit in vain do they **WORSHIP** me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

#1. TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES **A HEART OF TRUTH**

#2. TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S

WORD

(V. 23), "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in **TRUTH**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

S **PILATE ASKED JESUS, "WHAT IS TRUTH?"** (John 18:38). ONE THING THE BIBLE MAKES ABUNDANTLY CLEAR IS THAT **GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH.**

- **(Psa 19:9)**, "... The judgments of the LORD are **TRUE** . . . "
- **(Psa 119:151)**, "... All thy commandments are **TRUTH.**"
- **(Psa 119:160)**, "Thy word is **TRUE** from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."
- **(Mat 5:18)**, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, ONE **JOT** or ONE **TITTLE** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."
- **(Rev 21:5)**, "... THESE WORDS ARE **TRUE** and faithful."
- **(Eph 1:13)**, "... **THE WORD OF TRUTH,** . . . "
- **(James 1:18)**, "... **THE WORD OF TRUTH,** . . . "
- **(Dan 10:21)**, "But I will show thee that which is noted in **THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH:** . . . "

S **AN IMPORTANT QUESTION** to answer is, "DO I WORSHIP GOD ACCORDING TO **THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH?** Does my worship **OBEY GOD'S WORD?**"

S **MANY THINGS** that parade as worship, do not match "THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH."

- **(Rom 1:25)**, “WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE, and WORSHIPED and served **THE CREATURE** more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”
- **(Rev 9:20)**, “And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not **WORSHIP DEVILS**, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:”
- **(Rev 13:4)**, “And they **WORSHIPED THE DRAGON** which gave power unto the beast: and they **WORSHIPED THE BEAST**, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”
- **(Rev 13:15)**, “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not **WORSHIP THE IMAGE** of the beast should be killed.”

#1. TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES **A HEART OF TRUTH**

#2. TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES **OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD**

#3. TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD MUST BE THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(John 14:6), “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

(Acts 4:12), “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

(1 Tim 2:5), “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

(John 4:25), “The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.”

(John 4:26), “Jesus saith unto her, **I THAT SPEAK UNTO THEE AM HE.**”

S **JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH.** Those who are “true worshipers” must worship according to God’s truth.

S **(John 1:17)**, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and **TRUTH** came by Jesus Christ.”

**SHE LEFT HER WATERPOT AND WENT TO SHARE THE
“TRUTH”**

(John 4:28-29), “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, {29} Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”