

Divinely Blessed & Restored

True Worship[®] Worship Who He Is! by: Rev Doris B. Ryans

But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.” John 4:23 KJV

The American Collegiate Dictionary defines worship as to honor, to adore, to reverence, to pay respect, and to give homage. The subject of worship arose in the midst of Jesus' interaction with a Samaritan woman at the well (John 4: 1 – 26). Jesus was passing through Samaria on his way from Jerusalem to Galilee, and fatigued, He set down at the well. Once seated, He asked the woman, a Samaritan, for water. After using this opportunity to teach a needy sinner, about the “living water” that will quench the thirst of a barren spiritual life, she began to talk about worship. The woman questioned the proper place of worship stating: *“Our fathers worship on this mountain and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship”* (John 4:20 KJV). This led to Jesus' teaching on worship.

First He stressed the end to the significance of a “place” of worship, stating *“the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father”* (John 4:21 KJV).

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There will be no more sacred or special sites like Jerusalem, all places will soon be the same, for as Ephesians 2:19 states: *"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God"*. Jesus then directs the conversation to a much more important point, the attitude of the worshippers.

Jesus discusses the essence of biblical worship, "in spirit and in truth", which is true worship. In true worship; the spirit or the soul of man (which the Holy Spirit indwelt when you accepted Christ) influenced by the Holy Spirit, has communion with God. In truth means this communion is with sincerity and when this occurs evidence of your spiritual affection for God will begin to flow from your heart. This spiritual affection for God comes in response to your relationship with God – which means "true worship" is personal! You can't worship or "love on" someone you know nothing about for it would be fake, it would be insincere, for show, and not authentic. True worship is your loving one that loved you - the wretched sinner you were!

Worship "in spirit and in truth" is when you have turned your heart, your entire being over to God.

Hebrews 13:15 tells us to: *"continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of the lips that give thanks to his name."* We worship God when we praise Him and thank Him for all that He is and all that He has done for us. Not because He needs our praise, but because of the benefits to us. We benefit when regardless of our feelings or circumstances, we recall God's blessings and then thank Him for them. It helps keep us in reality – the reality that it's not because of me, but because of Thee! Worship allows us to celebrate how He's still blessing us in spite of ourselves. It keeps us humble as it reminds us that in spite of our sin, in spite of our shortcomings, in spite of our rebellion; instead of giving us His wrath, He has forgiven us, gave His life for us, given us His Spirit, and guaranteed us the right to eternal life!

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Are you a "true worshipper"? Is your worship "in spirit and in truth"? Is your worship God centered and God focused? It's time to de-institutionalize and de-ritualize worship. It's not about a ceremony, a season, and place, it's about what is happening in the heart! True Worship shouldn't be difficult if you have reached a point of acknowledging that God is exclusively, undeniably your everything! That He is Almighty, Holy, Righteous, Loving, Gracious, Magnificent, Wise, All-Knowing, Merciful, Compassionate, Trustworthy and Unchanging. You can worship Him "in spirit and in truth" because you know He is the Prince of Peace, The King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. That He is Master, Father, Creator and Savior! He's omnipotent! He's omnipresent! He's omniscient!

Jesus' statement to the woman at the well that the Father seeketh "true worshipper's" to worship Him was to give hope and encouragement to the Samaritan woman **if** she was willing to be a "true worshipper" (John 4:23 KJV). That was really the only matter which deserved her immediate attention - her salvation. That same hope is available for you today if you are not a "true worshipper". The same hope Jesus offered to the woman at the well that day, is available to you today. Will you be a "true worshipper"?

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

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March 2010

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Teaching Class Girls Purity Commitment

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Hour
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!