

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth

(John 4:22-24) *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 worshippers 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.*

Let us consider what the Lord Jesus Christ teaches us in these verses. What does God the Father seek of those who will worship Him? From verse 23, we note that the Lord pointed to two parts of worship that God the Father desires of those who worship Him. The Lord said that the true worshipper MUST worship the Father (1) in Spirit and (2) in truth.

It is being taught, both far and near, to worship in the Spirit is to follow a plan laid out in the Bible without any interaction with the invisible third person of the Godhead. However, this teaching cannot be true in light of what the Lord has taught in these verses. These scriptures teach that true worship involves both the Spirit and the truth.

Notice another example: (John 14:15-17) *If ye love Me, keep My commandments. {16} And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* According to these scriptures, the people of God, who keep His commandments, are promised the abiding presence and accompaniment of the Holy Spirit. The Lord said the Holy Spirit would dwell with these people and be in them. So then, the absence of the Holy Spirit would indicate a failure to keep the truth as it is found in His commandments. Those who worship God must do so in Spirit and in truth.

The truth teaches the lost that they are commanded of God to repent or they will perish: [(Luke 13:3) *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.* and (Acts 17:30) *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:.*]. The also truth points out that the lost will find God by spiritual means: [(Rom 10:10) *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;* and (Rom 10:13) *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*] If a

person reads the Bible and finds how to obtain soul salvation from God, they have read the truth. However, if they NEVER believe with all their heart and call on God, they fail to meet what the truth commands them to do. They fail to exercise those means of the Spirit explained in the Bible. In other words, they come short of being true worshippers because they are not worshipping in the *Spirit* and in the truth.

Just as the body is dead without the Spirit, so is attempting to worship God in the truth without the Spirit. Let's be careful to rightly divide the Word of truth.