



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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True Worshipers Offer God True Worship

By Joe Price, Swordtips #1564

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (Jn 4:23–24, NKJV)

The true God seeks true worshipers to offer Him true worship. According to Jesus, true worship is offered God “in spirit and truth.” Since God’s word is truth, it necessarily follows that God’s word reveals true worship and is not devised in the human heart (John 17:17; 2 Kings 12:33). Sincerity alone is insufficient to qualify one as a true worshiper. To please God, sincere worship comes from the heart (“in spirit”) and conforms to the truth of God. The true worshipers we read of in the New Testament offered God reverential prayers, heart-filled singing, memorial eating of the Lord’s supper, thankful giving, and the respectful teaching of God’s word (Acts 2:42; 20:7; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 16:2). Since God accepted their worship, we can offer the same worship today, equally confident that He accepts our worship. True worshipers give God gospel-revealed worship from the heart, not man made worship (Colossians 2:23). God seeks true worshipers. Worship God with your full heart and in the gospel-revealed way.

Hold God in Reverence

By Joe Price, Swordtips #1524

5 And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. 6 For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord? 7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him. (Psalm 89:5–7, NKJV)

The sovereign majesty of God is on full display in the heavens: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). The wondrous precision of the heavenly bodies sustains life on earth and measures time on this globe. God faithfully works in the heavens and in the assembly of His holy ones. He rises above all the heavenly host and is held in reverential awe by them. The holy ones before His throne proclaim, “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:11). How much more so, then, ought we to fall before His majesty with reverential praise and adoration! Worship is not play time, entertainment time, or anything else but giving homage to the Lord God “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). As the hymn says, “There is none like Him, none can compare.”

Unacceptable Worship

By Joe Price, Swordtips #1793

21 “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. 22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.” (Amos 5:21–22, NKJV)

If you are under the impression that God accepts whatever worship is brought to Him, then please give close attention to today’s passage. During the days of Amos the northern kingdom of Israel was immersed in idolatry, immorality, and injustice against one another (Amos 5:25-27; 4:1). They oppressed the weak and rejected the word that God sent them by His prophets (Amos 5:10-15; 2:11-12). They attempted to worship the Lord with gold calves (set up by Jeroboam as a hedge against the reunification of Israel

and Judah, 1 Kgs. 12:26-30). Israel could not come before God with impure hearts and unclean hands and be accepted by Him. Neither can we (Jas. 4:7-10). It is the height of hubris to ignore the word of God that explains how we must worship Him “in spirit and truth” while confidently asserting God is pleased with us (Jno. 4:23-24). Such arrogance is rejected by God, who “resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (Jas. 4:6). You see, it matters how we worship God as well as what type of heart we bring before God when we worship. Let us humble ourselves before God and obey His word, so that our worship will be in spirit and truth. Otherwise, our worship will not be accepted by the Lord.

“You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things”

By Joe Price, Swordtips #1659

1 These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. 2 You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. 3 And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. 4 You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things. (Deuteronomy 12:1-4, NKJV)

How we worship God is critically important to being accepted by God. Israel was commanded to destroy the false gods and their places of worship in the land of Canaan. They were forbidden to worship God “with such things” (v. 4). Christians cannot borrow items of unauthorized, false worship and expect God to be pleased. The true God only accepts true worship (“in spirit and truth,” John 4:23-24). Whether it is lighting candles, ritual ceremonies, using instrumental music, or many other such things, every attempt to minimize and discard the pattern of worship in the New Testament is an affront against God. This is a primary reason to carefully approach God with worship He approves, not worship devised by the wisdom and will of humanity.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Larry, Leukemia diagnosis
- Ray & Ginger, as he deals with Alzheimer's symptoms
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) widespread cancer
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Our Scheduled Gospel meeting with Doug Roush: May 13-17

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell

Lord's Table – David Porter

Wednesday

Song Leader – Tom Mitchell

Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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