

## Do We Know What We Worship?

031719AM

### John 4:21-24

- Worship is common, but worship that is acceptable to God is authorized and defined by the New Testament.
- Worship defined – (1) Mat. 4:10; Jn. 4:23-24, *proskuneo*, to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence; in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication. (2) Mat. 15:9, "in vain they worship Me", *sebomai*, to revere, to worship (Thayer).
- Not all worship is equal, nor is all worship biblical.

### Vain Worship - according to the traditions of man. Mat. 15:8-9

- Vain, *maten*, fruitlessly (Thayer), serves no purpose past, present or future; waste of time and energy.
- Originates with man & designed to please man.

Commandments come from those in authority; man has always desired authority over other men; consequently, men devise commandments to exercise authority over others.

- No good outcome – (Nadab & Abihu) Lev. 10:1-2; (idolatry & child sacrifice) Jer. 7:31; 32:35; Hos. 4:6; Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; (corrupting the faith) Acts 15:24; Rom. 10:3.
- Rejects the commandments of God. Mk. 7:8-9 – cannot worship by two authorities any more than can serve two masters (Mat 6:24).

This is why the RC & denominational formula for determining authority cannot stand, e.g., the Bible, the church, and tradition, making man the servant of three masters when serving two is an impossibility.

- Vain worship will be rooted up (Mat. 15:13) – Sincerity is not the issue, but whether planted (approved) by God.

### Ignorant Worship - another type of Vain Worship. Acts 17:23

- The Samaritans (Jn. 4:20-22).
  - What they thought they were worshiping and what they were worshiping were not the same.
  - Originated with Jeroboam I. (1 Kng. 12:26-33).
  - "This mountain" Gerazim, not far from Sychar; Samaritan Pentateuch sub. Gerazim for Ebal (Deu. 27:4); built a temple on Gerazim.
  - Overthrown because of false worship (Amo. 4).

- Jewish worship was est. by God (1 Kng. 11:36; 2 Kng. 21:4, 7; 2 Chron. 33:7).
- The Athenians (Acts 17:23).
  - Paul saw that the city was "given over to idols" (17:16).
  - Petronius, "Our region is so full of deities that you may more frequently meet with a god than a man."
  - Paul preached the God that they should have known.

### Worship in Spirit and in Truth. Jn. 4:23-24.

- "In spirit" - NT worship is spiritual; opposite to dependence on outward, physical things.
  - Not worshiped with men's hands or by things made with hands (Acts 17:24-25).
  - Offers spiritual sacrifices through Christ (1 Pet. 2:5).
- "In truth" - NT worship is informed, not ignorant.
  - Came by Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:17).
  - Revealed & lived by Christ (Jn. 14:6; Eph. 4:21). "the truth is in Jesus"
  - God's word is truth (Jn. 17:17; Gal. 2:5, 14).
- "Neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem."
  - Physical location not relevant, because the physical temple would no longer be relevant. Cf. Mk. 13:2.
  - Worship in spirit and in truth can only be offered in the spiritual temple, the church (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).
  - Because of its spiritual nature, there can be no manmade doctrines, nor manmade articles of worship - no lavers, lampstands, altars, censers, instruments of music, etc.
  - Helps us understand (Eph. 5:19); not possible to have a physical musical instrument in a spiritual temple wherein spiritual sacrifices are offered up.

### Decision:

- Worship is authorized and defined by the New Testament of Jesus Christ.
- Worship according to the doctrines and commandments of men or in ignorance is vain.
- True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
- Worship is defined less by what we get out of it, and more by what we put into it.
- When we worship in a manner and attitude that glorifies God, then we can be satisfied and edified!