

# Worship

In The

# New Testament

*James Eaves*

**Text:** *“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.” (Joh 4:23)*

**Thesis:** How are we worshipping God? The way in which we worship God is paramount.

**Introduction:**

A) **At work two people were up for the same position so the boss decided to hold a contest and assigned the same task to both employees.**

- 1) The one that does the best will win the position.
- 2) One person came up with this outrageous idea, breaking some of the rules of the company, and it generated lots of sales.
- 3) The other guy got out the store manual and did it by the book and a normal amount of sales were generated.
- 4) The first guy won because of his creative thinking.
- 5) In business sometimes it may not matter that rules are broken, but in our worship to God some people want to take the same stance.

B) **The New Testament is much like the “store manual” from the above story.**

- 1) It is God’s Will for us.
- 2) So when we look to God’s Word for guidance in the area of worship what do we see?

**Lead Statement:** *In the New Testament some participated in ...*

I) **Will Worship**

A) ***These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Col 2:23)***

- 1) “These” refers to verse 16-18 where Paul tells them not to let anyone “*pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ...insisting on asceticism and worship of angels,*  
...

a) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Rom 12:1-2)

b) Galatians 2:20

**Conclusion:**

- A) Some worship God the way they want, others vainly and still others ignorantly, but the only true way to worship God is His way!
- B) Have you been crucified with Christ in order that you might worship Him His way? (Gal 2:20; Rom 6:3,4; 2Cor 5:17).

- a) In contrast to the ceremonial worship expected under the Law of Moses, Christians must offer a spiritual worship.
  - b) Jesus also points out that Truth in worship, to God who cannot lie, is of utmost importance.
- 2) These two characteristics define one another.
- a) Spiritual worship is done in the truth of God's Word.
  - b) True worship is done spiritually.
  - c) We cannot separate the two.

**B) The Truth of God's Word is Powerful.**

- 1) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (Joh 8:32; cf. Rom 6:16-18)
- 2) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (Joh 17:17)
- 3) Isn't the truth of the Bible subjective?
  - a) Illustration of a cook book.
    - (a) Baking cookies. Page 5 – cookie recipe- one cup of flour. Page 10 – spaghetti recipe – one jar of spaghetti sauce. Page 35 – Egg Casserole recipe – ½ cup of green peppers.
    - (b) If I ignorantly translated from the cook book that this was how to make cookies would you eat them?
- 4) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (Mat 7:16-18)

**C) Application**

- 1) Are you worshipping God in spirit and truth?
- 2) Worshipping God in spirit and truth requires a sacrifice of self daily.

- 2) He goes on to say that all of these things appear wise.
  - a) To the unknowledgeable it may seem that these people were wise and spiritual people.
  - b) Some claiming to be Christians were adding to the Gospel of Christ.
- 3) Notice that once these things were added that Paul refers to it as self-made religion.
  - a) They had perverted the Gospel.
  - b) Therefore now they served self and not Christ.

**B) Illustration**

- 1) Cain's sacrifice. – Gen 4:3-5
- 2) Nadab and Abihu's brought strange fire. – Leviticus 10:1

**C) Application**

- 1) Paul made it very clear that when he became a Christian it was no longer about him.
- 2) *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)*
- 3) *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Rom 6:16)*

**II) Vain Worship**

- A) *But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Mat 15:9)***
- 1) That is, their attempts to worship are "vain," or are not real worship - they are mere "forms." (Barnes Notes)

- 2) Again, when we add to the way that God has designated that we worship Him our worship is vain, "not real worship".
- 3) The "doctrines" were simply religious requirements that they had set.
- 4) Their traditions were held above God's Word.

#### B) Illustration

- 1) There are denominations today that vote on whether or not a person will be allowed to be baptized into that denomination.
- 2) A quick look at the N.T. will reveal no such restriction on obedience to God. (Acts 2:38-47; Acts 8, 10, etc.)

#### C) Application

- 1) We must be very careful not to fall into this category.
- 2) When a person binds traditions of men, they have added to the Word of God, and thus are practicing "vain worship".

### III) Ignorant Worship

***A) Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. (Act 17:22-23)***

- 1) There are many views on what "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD" meant.
  - a) Some say that the heathen nations looked to the God of the Jews as the God they didn't know, therefore – Unknown.
  - b) Jerome says that this altars inscription was actually plural and said, "To the gods of Asia, and Europe, and Africa: To The Unknown and strange God."

c) Still others say they had this altar erected because they were afraid to leave out a god and invoke his wrath.

2) The worship here indicated is worship defined by those of Athens viewed worship.

- a) We have already noticed that when we worship God in an a we He has not prescribed then we are actually not worshipping God.
- b) Their ignorance would not save them.
- c) If their ignorant worship was ok then Paul was wrong for correcting them in their understanding.\

#### B) Illustration

- 1) Judgment Day: "O, what a surprise! I wasn't expecting to go to heaven!
- 2) This scenario will never happen.
- 3) No one will accidentally go to heaven.

#### C) **Ignorant worship didn't please God then and it doesn't please Him now.**

- 1) *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Eph 5:17)*
- 2) *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (1Jn 2:3)*
- 3) *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. (1Jn 5:3)*
- 4) Knowledge of God's will for us is key in being approved by God (2Tim 2:15).

### IV) True Worship

***A) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (Joh 4:24)***

- 1) He only accepts worship that is in the likeness of Him, Spirit and Truth.