

T R U E

Worshippers

**A blog post by
Pastor Phil Ballmaier**



“True Worshipers”

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John 4:23 (NKJV)

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.

Never has a subject been so important while at the same time been so misunderstood as has the subject of worship.

The subject of worship permeates and dominates the entire Bible.

In the Old Testament, worship covered every area of the lives of God’s people—it was the focus of all they did—for example:

The Tabernacle was designed and laid out to emphasize the priority of worship. The description of its details requires 7 chapters containing 243 verses in the Book of Leviticus.

When you realize that only 31 verses in Genesis are devoted to the entire creation of the universe—you get a pretty good idea of how important worship is to God!

In John’s gospel, a woman of Samaria (the Samaritan’s were half Jew, half Gentile) asked Jesus where the proper place was to worship God—she said:

John 4:20-22 (NKJV)

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to

her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

So here Jesus settles the controversy about *where* true worship was to be conducted, and *which* people were offering it acceptably.

He tells this woman that *the people* were the Jewish people, and *the place* was Mount Moriah. When the Lord said to this Samaritan woman, "You worship what you do not know,"—He was essentially saying that she was worshipping God *ignorantly* and *unacceptably*—and He condemned and rejected the whole Samaritan system of worship as being false.

This is in stark contrast to those people today who say that *all religions* are equally good, *all forms of worship* are equally valid—and that *all roads* universally lead to God!

However, Jesus absolutely rejected that idea when He said to this Samaritan woman that she and her people worshipped *falsely* out of *ignorance*—while the Father was seeking *true* worshippers who would offer Him *true* worship.

In other words, He stated categorically that there is *true* religion and *false* religion, *true* worship and *false* worship—and *true worshippers* and *false worshippers*.

This is an extremely important statement by Jesus, because through it He is telling us that God only accepts *true* worship offered by *true* worshippers—and only they will get into heaven.

The Lord Jesus informed this woman that the worship of the Samaritans (no matter how sincere) was neither *authorized* nor *approved* by God.

They had *invented* it and *practiced* it on *their* terms and according to *their* liking in disobedience to what God had revealed in His Word about the *proper* and *only* way He was to be worshipped. This is what some

have called ‘*do-it-yourself*’ or ‘*self-styled*’ worship— which was in contrast to the worship of the Jewish people.

In saying that “*salvation is of the Jews,*” Jesus was affirming that the Jewish people were God’s chosen people—those to whom He had given His Word containing detailed instructions on how they were to properly worship Him.

Under the Old Covenant God was worshipped through animal sacrifices which when offered to Him by the priests on behalf of the Jewish people—the blood of those animals atoned for their sins, allowing them to have fellowship with Him as true worshippers.

However, under the New Covenant, Jesus came to bring a new kind of worship to the people of God which meant—the old sacrificial system would be no more.

No more would the Jewish people have to bring endless animal sacrifices to atone for their sins—Jesus, the Great High Priest of the New Covenant, would offer Himself as the sinless Lamb of God *once* for *all* people—to take away (not temporarily cover), but to take away their sins once and for all time.

John 4:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers 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."

The term “*true worshippers*”—is synonymous with “*true Christians.*”

Let me share with you three elements of true worship as Jesus stated or alluded to—

1. It would consist of many different people

The Bible says that God is no respecter of persons and loves all the people of the world (John 3:16) because they have all been made by Him in His image.

Nothing blesses the heart of God more than to see diversity in the Body of Christ—as blacks and whites, Hispanics and Asians and all other ethnic groups come together as the family of God to worship Him.

2. It would be carried out in many different places

Of course, the top of Mt. Moriah was the place where the Jewish Temple was located—the place where God had been worshipped for a thousand years.

However, under the New Covenant, the Temple of God would not be a brick-and-mortar building—and worship would not be limited to any one location.

Jesus said it right here in John 4:21, that true worship isn't a matter of *locality*—it's a matter of the heart!

Since Jesus came, died, rose again, ascended back to His Father and the Holy Spirit came to live in the heart of every child of God—we have now become the temple of God and everywhere we go becomes a place of worship!

3. It would be conducted in spirit and in truth

Not through religious rituals, ceremonies, the lighting of candles, the praying of rosaries and all the other man-made, do-it-yourself worship techniques that man has developed over the centuries with which to worship God.

Those that practice these things, Paul said, are just like the religious Jews in his day who rejected Jesus and sought (like the woman of Samaria) to offer God unacceptable worship—

Romans 10:2-3 (NKJV)

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

In contrast, Jesus said—"**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**" (John 4:24)

The only kind of worship the Father is seeking, the only kind He will accept is worship in *spirit* and in *truth*—

- a. **In Spirit**—which a person cannot do until they are first born of the Spirit (born-again)—

John 3:3 (NKJV)

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again ['born of the Spirit'], he cannot see the kingdom of God."

No one, no matter how sincere they are, can offer God acceptable worship if they haven't been born of the Spirit (a genuine born-again Christian)—regardless of how 'religious' they are.

But once a person is born of the Spirit (saved)—they must also then worship God:

- b. **In Truth**—according to the truth of God as revealed in His Word.

Matthew 15:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.* ⁹ *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.* "

Any so-called '*worship*' that is not according to the truth in God's Word will be rejected by God now—as will any so-called '*worshipper*' be rejected when they stand before God on the Day of Judgment.

It won't matter how sincere they were during their life—"*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*" (Proverbs 14:12)

Listen, worship doesn't *make* you a worshipper—you worship because you *are* a worshipper.

Just like the apples on a tree don't *make* it an apple tree—they just '*bear witness*' or prove that it is an apple tree.

Going to church and singing songs to God doesn't make a person a Christian any more than tying artificial apples on to an oak tree turns it into an apple tree!

A true Christian worships God in Spirit and in truth—because they have received Jesus into their heart to be their Savior and at that moment the Holy Spirit moved in—and made them a true worshipper!

Again, what makes a person a worshipper is that they have been born again or born of the Spirit, and once they have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior and have been born of the Spirit—they are now true Christians, and the result or 'fruit' of that relationship will be a life of true worship.

You need to understand that the goal of all of redemptive history is for the Father to gather from humanity a community of redeemed people who would worship Him forever in Spirit and truth.

That is what He desires, that is what He is seeking after, that is the ultimate purpose for which we were created and redeemed—that we would become a community of true worshippers:

Revelation 4:10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**You and I were created to bring God pleasure
by living a life of worship.**

Those who refuse because they want to live to please themselves don't realize that—a person will never know greater joy and fulfillment in life than when they fulfill the purpose for which they were created.

Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior and fulfill the purpose for which God created you—to become a true worshipper!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).



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Pastor Phil can be heard on Day By Day Radio Program on AM1160 Chicago, Monday-Friday at 6:00 PM and 4:30 AM, and on Calvary Radio Network at 9:00 AM.

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