

WORSHIP WHICH GOD ACCEPTS

John 4:24

Introduction: Jesus explained to the woman at the Samaritan well that God didn't have to be worshipped in a certain place anymore for in the Exodus times there was the Tabernacle Israel gathered around to worship God, then later there was the Temple built to worship God in, now Jesus says that God can be worshipped anywhere but in a particular manner. Today there are still those who believe that God can be worshipped only in a certain place. God can be worshipped anyplace today, but there are certain guidelines which must be followed for a person actually worship God.

I. WHERE IS GOD TO BE WORSHIPPED?

1. Jesus told the woman all about herself which embarrassed her for He knew of her sinful life.
2. God knows all about every person's life, even the secret, sinful things.
3. The woman didn't want to talk about her sinful past and changed the subject to where to worship God.
4. Jesus told the woman that she and others had been trying to worship God in the wrong place for at the time Jerusalem and the Temple was the proper place to worship God.
5. Jesus then revealed that things were changing and that God could be worshipped anywhere IF done in the right manner, in Spirit and in Truth.
 - Their manner of worship from the very beginning was in prescribed forms, in a particular place, and if away, must turn to face the direction of that certain place at the appointed worship time.
 - They believed that prays, forms of worship would be useless unless directed toward or done in the assigned particular place for worship.
 - Jesus revealed that God wasn't confined to a certain place and that God didn't want just forms, rituals or sacrifices as worship.

II. JUST HOW IS GOD TO BE WORSHIPPED?

1. Too often worship stresses the externals.
 - It is thought that God must be approached in a certain manner/order.
2. Most often the worshippers, the staff, the choir, the guest, the soloist, etc., are worshipped instead of God. Who gets the applause? Who gets the "amens?"
3. God looks only at the worshipper's heart.
 - All the singing, amens, clapping, preaching and praying don't mean a thing to God if hearts are not right and being done for the right reason - to truly worship God.

III. PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND ACTIONS MUST BE UNITED ACCEPTED WORSHIP

1. What is coming out the mouth must be synchronized with what is in the heart.
 - Confession of sins is not just uttering humble sounding words, one's heart must be experiencing true sorrow for those sins.
 - Asking God for good sounding things is not enough for one's heart must also actually want and desire, year for what is being asked for.
 - Insincere, unmeaning words of compliment and thanks are empty and fall on deaf ears, for God will not hear any words uttered in insincerity, words not coming from one's heart.
2. When one's heart is not in one's actions, any attempt at worship is but a mockery to God
3. God sees not only one's actions, but sees also one's heart as well.
 - What does God think of a person when his/her heart and actions are not united?

CONCLUSION:

1. Worship accepted by God is:
 - from believers in Jesus Christ ONLY.
 - from sincere hearts with matching actions in life.
 - aimed at God and not at those participating in the "worship" service/program, activities.
2. God is Spirit and material things do not concern Him. He is interested in man's spiritual condition.
3. God is Truth and there fore is concerned only with the condition of one's heart - is he/she being truthful with God.
4. Therefore,- God is not confined to a certain place.
 - God is not concerned with rituals.
 - God is not interested in lying, false hearts.
5. If you are a believer, sincere in what you are doing, asking of God, God will hear and bless, otherwise, your efforts to "worship" are in vain. Worship has to be done God's way!