

SERIES TITLE: Acceptable Worship

PART 3: TRUE

TEXT: JOHN 4:23-24

INTRODUCTION.

When is worship acceptable? The only way we can discover this is to see how Scripture defines it. As David Peterson writes, “We cannot simply determine for ourselves what is honoring to God.” We need a biblical and theological perspective. Of the ways God has revealed himself—creation, Conscience, Christ—he has given us objective truth in the written Word. Through these 7 weeks, we will consider a minute portion of what the Bible declares or demonstrates about worship. This is a crucial subject for every single follower of Jesus. Why? As Erwin Lutzer stated: “If we haven’t learned to be worshippers, it really doesn’t matter how well we do anything else.” May we become the kind of worshippers that God the Father seeks.

DISCUSSION.

What characteristics come to mind when you hear the word worship?

EXAMINATION.

- 4:21 What time is Jesus referring to when he says worship will no longer take place on the mountain or in Jerusalem?
- 4:22 In what way is salvation from the Jews? (consider Romans 9:4-5)
- 4:23-24 From what Jesus says, why is worship in spirit and truth necessary?
- Based upon the context and other teaching from Jesus, what does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?

APPLICATION.

- Can a corporate worship service be evangelistic? Why or why not? (consider 1 Corinthians 14:23-25)
- What should be our primary concern in worship and why?
- Think about the kinds of things that distract you from entering into worship and evaluate if those should really be distractions.

- How can you personally become the kind of worshipper the Father seeks?
- How should the future worship scene of Revelation 7:9-10 inform our worship today?
- What are the differences, if any, between personal worship and corporate worship?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?