

Sermon ~ Sunday, February 7th, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: John 4: 24 "GOD is a SPIRIT: and they that worship HIM must worship HIM in spirit and truth."

Title: "Worship!"

Have you stop "worshipping" since the COVID-19 Pandemic? There is a *change* in worship.

"The hour cometh, and now is... said JESUS in John 4: 23a."

In other words, JESUS *changed* worship! Before JESUS, people worshipped GOD in special places: in tents, temples, before altars... like the Samaritan woman in the text, v. 20, on the mountain in Gerizim or the Holy City of Jerusalem. But the *holiness* of Gerizim had done little for her. And the *holiness* of Jerusalem did little for those Priest and Law expounders who in their fanaticism, *crucified* JESUS on a Roman Cross.

Since CHRIST, (COVID-19), the *place* and *locality* mean nothing. JESUS CHRIST has opened the door into GOD'S Presence from *any place* in the universe. JESUS said to the Samaritan woman, "Woman, believe ME, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship The FATHER." (John 4: 21) WOW!!!

"Worship!"

I ask this question again, Have you stop "worshipping" since this COVID-19 Pandemic?

--Oxford English Dictionary defines "worship," as homage or reverence paid to a deity; acts, rites, ceremonies; adoration or devotion (worship of wealth).

--American Heritage English Dictionary defines "worship," as reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object. Ceremonies, prayer, or other religious forms performed by which love is expressed.

--Merriam-Webster English Dictionary defines "worship," as reverence offered (to a person of importance—officials, as magistrates or mayors); a form of religious practices with its creeds and rituals; to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship.

The Greek word, "*proskuneo*" for our English word "worship," means to worship or to prostrate; to give homage directed to **The Divine**; reverence. One difference between the Greek word "*proskuneo*" and the English word "worship" is, "*proskuneo*" is never used in The New Testament to represent a religious assembly. While the English word "worship" infers praising, prayer, the administration of The LORD'S Supper, listening to Teaching and benevolent giving and the like, these occur in **CHRISTian** assemblies.

Point: we can assemble and never "Worship GOD!"

JESUS in the context of our text (John 4: 24) points out *The Nature* of Worship. We are to Worship GOD in *spirit* and *truth*. To Worship GOD in the *spirit* means to Worship GOD...

- with the *spiritual* drive and ability of one's soul, seeking the most intimate communion and fellowship with GOD.
- With the *spiritual* core of one's life and being, trusting and resting in GOD'S acceptance, love and care.

To Worship **GOD** in *truth* means...

- To approach **GOD** in the right or *true* way. There is only one way, that is, through **JESUS CHRIST**.
- To Worship **GOD** sincerely and *truthfully*, not half-heartedly with wandering minds and sleepy eyes.

The reason for Worship, (John 4: 23c)... “**The FATHER** seeketh such to worship **HIM**.”
GOD desires worship, for **HE** created us to worship and fellowship with **HIM**.
Therefore, **GOD** seeks those who will worship **HIM** in **SPIRIT** and **TRUTH**.

“Worship!” – What is most important, is **The PERSON** rather than the *place*...

“Worship!” – What is most important, the *piety* in worship; the *proper way* to worship (typical of the unregenerated) rather than **The PERSON** of Worship.

“Worship!” – The *Problem* in Worship. **JESUS** said, “Ye worship ye know not what.” (v. 22)
It does not matter where you worship if you do not know **WHO** you are worshipping.

“Worship!” – **The PERSON** to Worship... v. 22, speaks of *Salvation*. *Salvation* refers to **JESUS**—
“Thou shalt call **HIS NAME JESUS**: for **HE** shall save **HIS** people from their sins.”
(Matthew 1: 21) How? **HIS** death, burial and Resurrection!!!

“Worship!” – The *Prediction* about Worship... v. 23, “The hour cometh and now is...”
True worshippers are not defined by the place of worship, but by **WHO** they worship and How they worship.

“Worship!” – The *Practice* of Worship... v. 24. Worship is *spiritual* because **GOD is SPIRIT**.
The posture/place does not matter as much as the *Heart* in Worship. But when the *Heart* is made right, Worship of **GOD** is *transforming*.

“Worship!” – *Purifies*. **The TRUTH**, *convicts, convinces, converts*. **The TRUTH** makes the believer free. **The TRUTH purifies** the *Heart*.

“Worship!” – It is not the *circumstances* of the Worshiper but the *character* of the Worshiper that matters.

“**LORD** prepare me to be a Sanctuary!”

LORD prepare me to be a Sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried, and True.
And with Thanksgiving, I’ll be a living Sanctuary,
Oh for **YOU**.

LORD prepare me to be a Sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried, and True.
And with Thanksgiving, I’ll be a living Sanctuary,
Oh for **YOU**.

Yes (yes)
Yes (yes to **YOUR Will LORD**)
Yes (yes to **YOUR Way**)
Yes (**LORD** I’ll go where **YOU** want me to go)
Yes (yes)
Yes, yes (yes)
Yes, (whatever **YOU** tell me to do **LORD**)
Yes, (my will is **YOUR Will** for me **LORD**)

LORD prepare me to be a Sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried, and True.
And with thanksgiving (Oh I’ll be)
I’ll be a living (Sanctuary) Sanctuary (for **YOU**)
For **YOU** (HALLELUJAH, Hey, for **YOU**)

Now I want **The LORD** to *mold* me,
Now I want **HIM** to *make* me,
Now I want **HIM** to *direct* me,
Now I want **HIM** to *shape* me,
Now I want **HIM** to *purge* me,
Now I want **HIM** to *wash* me,
Whatever **HE** wants me to be, I’ll just be that.

LORD prepare me (to be a Sanctuary)
A living Sanctuary for **YOU!**

(West Angeles COGIC Angelic & Mass Choir)

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