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TRUE WORSHIP

"The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what; we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."

The hour to which Jesus here referred has already come. We do not want to be guilty of ignorant, vain, or will worship. Our desire should be to be TRUE WORSHIPPERS. Under the Christian Dispensation true worshippers must worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

The conditions of true worship as outlined by Jesus here are:-

1. The right object- God the Father. The conditions of worship are such that the worshipper becomes like the object he worships. Therefore, the idea that man forms of God will have much to do with the development of his character.

2. The right motive: - In spirit. Sincere, not formal nor indifferent. Fervent, not half

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hearted, nor lukewarm. True worship includes a spiritual sonse of the object worshipped and a spiritual communion with it. Then the true worshipper must have a spiritual sense of God the Father and a spiritual communion with God when he worships Him.

3.The right way:- In truth. True worship is guided by truth. Truth is the word of God. "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17) Worship guided by the word of God will be free from false conceptions resulting from imperfect knowledge. True worship includes a truthful conception of the object worshipped. This truthful conception can be gained only by learning the truth.

Those who have the proper feeling toward God seck an outward expression of their worship. Before we can worship God acceptably we must know something of God and what will please Him. God in the New Testament has set / forth the five following items by which we can express our worship to Him: Teaching or Preaching (Col.3:16;Acts 20:7). Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Prayer(I Tim.2:8;Eph.6:18) Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; I Cor.11:23-30) Giving (I Cor.16:1-2; II Cor.9:6-11). The proper feeling which the worshipper should have toward God may be expressed to him through these five things, and they are all suited to man's spiritual needs. We hope to discuss each of these items more at length in articles to follow.

"C.L.D."

DEVOTIONAL READING

Herbert Harper will read the devotional reading Sunday, July 1.

