TOPIC: TRUE WORSHIP TO GOD

God wants all of us, not just a part. He demands all of our worship.

KEY POINTS

- "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Spirit and Truth – what do those words mean?
- Spirit: our innermost self.
- In Psalms 103:1, David encourages himself to "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."
- This is a definite decision of how he would worship God. There is no question where he stands; he is all in, holding nothing back.
- We need to make that same definite decision that we are going to serve God and put everything we have into it. We need to worship God with every fibre of our being. With all that is within us.
- Truth: sincerity, as well as correctness.
- God requires not only that our inner selves be involved in our worship, but He requires truth in the inward part (see Psalm 51:6a).
- Hebrews 10:22a tells us to "…draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith."
- We need to learn to worship God in all his glory and awesomeness; for who He truly is and not as a show before others.
- Worship needs to be genuine. Heartfelt. Not an act or a show to please someone else or draw attention to ourselves, but something that we want to do.
- Even if no one else is doing it, even when there is no music, even when there is no one else around, we should want everything about our lives to worship God.
- In Romans 12:1, Paul again instructs the Church: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (NIV).
- Paul is telling us that because of all that God has done for us we should give ourselves totally to Him. This is the type of worship that He is looking for from His people: that we allow His Word and His Spirit to transform us into something wonderful for Him.
- When we have totally given ourselves to Him, then we can see that His will is good, perfect and acceptable. We will we be totally satisfied, content and happy.
- God wants all of us, not just a part. He demands all of our worship. No other thing or being should be worshiped beside(s) Him.
- When God occupies the proper position in our lives, what do we have to worry about?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 4: 6-26

- When we surrender our ambitions, dreams and intentions to His will, everything will be all right! (See Matthew 6:33.)
- Our hearts go out to those who give God only half of themselves and serve self and sin with the other half.
- It's such a sad position to be in. True happiness, joy, and contentment is gone, replaced by sadness, guilt and shame.
- It's hard trying to hang onto God while, at the same time, tolerating the enemy's lies. What a tormented life to live!
- "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).
- Have any of us fallen into the trap of thinking we are self-sufficient and have no need of God? Think again.
- Put Christ first in your life. Lean on His knowledge and understanding, not your own. Even when the answers seem obvious, never leave God out of the equation.
- The Lord is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Can you think of an example where someone (you or someone else) worshiped the Lord in truth, but not in spirit? What were the signs that the person's spirit wasn't involved? What was the result?
2. Answer the above questions again, but this time think of someone who worshiped God in spirit, but not in truth.
3. John 4:24 tells us that God is looking for people to worship Him in both spirit and truth. Does this describe you?
4. Meditate: What changes do I need to make in my actions, heart and/or belief system in order to fulfill the mandate for worship that God has given us?

Prayer Time

Lord, please help me to align both my spirit and my knowledge of Your Word as I give worship to You.

L.G. ice-Breaker: What are some things you do only because you have to (but don't particularly enjoy doing)?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS