

True Worship

John 4:19-24

How Different Was This Worship?

- It begins with the knowledge of Jesus.
- Consider the effect where Paul preached
 - Thessalonica | Acts 17:1-3, 6-7
 - (Matthew 27:37)
 - Athens | Acts 17:17-18, 24-25
 - Corinth | Acts 18:5, 8-18
 - *“This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”*
 - Ephesus | Acts 19:10, 23-27
 - verses 26-27 *“... they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised ...”*
- Acts 20:6-7 – Distinctive practice was noticed.

Difference Doctrine Made In Their Lives

- Evidence of the change in their lives and interactions with the brethren
 - Colossians 3:12-15
- Changes in their relationships: (3:18-4:6)
 - Wives (verse 18) | Husbands (verse 19) | Children (verse 20) | Fathers (verse 21) | Servants (verse 22) | Masters (verse 4:1) | Outside the brotherhood (verses 5-6)
- Colossians 3:16-17
 - *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus ...”*
- Colossians 3:23
 - *“Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”*

Change Evident In Worship To God

- John 4:20
 - 4:24 | *“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”*
 - Neither in Jerusalem or Gerizim; location did not matter.

SPIRIT – Those Who Argued for Jerusalem

- These were accurate in that God had said He had chosen Jerusalem (the place of meeting) as a place of sacrifice.
 - 2 Chronicles 7:12, 16, 21-22
- However, they neglected to worship God in the spirit He deserves.
 - Matthew 23:1-3, 5-7, 14, 16-22, 23
 - These had no real understanding of who they were in respect to the God that they were serving.
 - Malachi 1:6-8, 11, 14
 - *“For I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and My name is to be feared among the nations.”*

TRUTH – “These you ought to have done ...”

- From the very beginning the Samaritans had abandoned truth from their worship. Jeroboam made it idolatrous as king and it continued after their return from Assyrian captivity.
 - 2 King 17:33-34, 40-41
- The truth was lost even in their refusal to acknowledge God’s requirement of sacrifice at Jerusalem (before His altar and the ark of the covenant there).

God Is Looking For Worshipers

John 4:23 | "... for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."

- Acts 17:26-27 | "... that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."
- Where can these be found?
 - Jerusalem | Acts 2:40-47
 - Samaria | Acts 8:5-14
 - Antioch | Acts 11:20-26
- Everywhere the gospel of Jesus Christ is heeded.
 - Acts 20:21, 24, 25, 27 (Ephesus)

Conclusion

- God is still looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and truth.
 - Acts 2:40
 - Those who will gladly receive His word, no matter where they are, can become those who worship God in spirit and truth.