

Christian Worship – John 4v19-24

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The Priority of Worship – Why must we be worshippers?

John 4v23: The Father seeks worshippers, the worship of those who are His children / sons.

God's purpose in redemption is with a view to the worshipful service of His people (see book of **Exodus**).

Note the scriptural order in **John 4**: 1. Salvation (v10-14); 2. Worship (v20-24); 3. Service (v35-38).

Matt 4v10: We are saved to worship, before service.

Romans 15v16: Service in the gospel is the issue of a worshipful heart.

The Nature of Worship – What is worship?

Worship is to bow down before (**Gen 18v2**), in reverence & acknowledgment of the superiority of deity.

1st Chronicles 16v7-36: Worship is:

- An expression of our thanks to God (v7,8,34,35).
- An appreciation of what divine Persons have done (v8,9,12,24,26).
- An appreciation of what divine Persons are essentially (v10,25,34); see also **Matt 2v2/11, Matt 14v33, Matt 28v9**.
- Giving unto the Lord (v28,29), i.e. giving to God of His own beloved Son.

Worship comes from our hearts and ascends up to God.

Christian worship is the appreciation of Christ > appreciation of our salvation; it is the overflow of a heart that is filled with Christ, it is to have our spiritual vision filled with Christ alone (see **John 9v38**).

The Object of Worship – Who do we worship?

We worship divine Persons exclusively (**Rom 11v36**); not men or angels (**Rev 19v10, 22v9**).

Israel worshipped the LORD Jehovah, "**whose Name is Jealous**" (**Exodus 34v14**).

John 4v21-23: We today worship the God & Father of our Lord Jesus, i.e. the intimacy of our worship.

But we still worship with the same reverential fear (**Psalms 5v7, 95v6, 96v9**).

The Practice of Worship – How are we to worship?

Rom 12v1: The worshipful sacrifice of our bodies.

Heb 13v15: The worshipful sacrifice of our praise.

Heb 13v16: The worshipful sacrifice of our possessions.

1st Pet 2v5, John 4v24, Phil 3v3: We offer spiritual sacrifices, we have no confidence in the flesh.

Such spiritual worship requires spiritual exercise and suitable preparation, i.e. sacrificial worship.

The Place of Worship – Where do we worship?

John 4v20-21, Heb 8v1-2, 9v11: Not a place on earth, but in the heavenly sanctuary.

The Privilege of Worship – Who are fitted to worship?

1st Pet 2v5: The priesthood of all believers.

Heb 9v13-14, 10v19-22, Rev1v5-6: Based upon Calvary's sacrifice.

Our responsibility is for holy lives (Ps 24v3-4, 1st Cor 3v16-17, Lev 10v1-2)

The Effects of Worship - How are we changed by our worship?

Lev 7v8: Wearing the skin of the burnt offering, i.e. displaying Christ to others.

Ezekiel 46v9, Matt 2v11-12: We go out another way, spiritually changed.