

And Worship Him That Made

Worshipping Him that Made in Spirit and in Truth Seeing Him Who is Invisible

Study 3

True circumcision is the worship of Christ in spirit and truth, not in forms and ceremonies, with hypocritical pretense. {FE 399.3}.

IPe 1:22-23 BBE And as you have made your souls clean, being ruled by what is true, and loving one another without deceit, see that your love is warm and from the heart: (23) Because you have had a new birth, not from the seed of man, but from eternal seed, through the word of a living and unchanging God. What a everlasting truth!

This was taught by Jesus to the patriarchs and prophets to Nicodemus, to the woman of Samaria and now to us. In passages such as Deut 30 ;6 Jer 32v 39 Eze II 19-20 Eze 36 v 26-27 is this truth thought.

And so Jesus brings it to light again in Joh 4:24 CEV God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth.

The scriptures are very instructive in telling us about true worship and how to worship him that made.

Here are the divine thoughts. “The Lord is a great God, And a great King above all gods. . . . O come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” “It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise: Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 95:3-6; 100:3, 4. Oh what divine thoughts for contemplation and meditation concerning the approach and atmosphere in worshipping him that made.

A T Jones speaks “This is his word to men, his thought as to what he is. And true worship is to receive this thought as it is, in his word; and to worship him for what is expressed in that thought alone. God has revealed himself to men in character only, because this is that which most of all and first of all, man needs. And in this lies perfect assurance of true worship, and perfect security against all image worship, for it is impossible ever even mentally to image character. p. 14, Para. 2, [REVGOD].

In this study we will look at the encounter that Jesus had with the woman of Samaria and receive from him instruction in worshipping in spirit and in truth

That discourse is recorded in the gospel of John for our enlightenment, instruction and sanctification.

Joh 4:7-14 BBE A woman of Samaria came to get water, and Jesus said to her, Give me some water. (8) For his disciples had gone to the town to get food. (9) The woman of Samaria said to him, Why do you, a Jew, make a request for water to me, a woman of Samaria? She said this because Jews have nothing to do with the people of Samaria. (10) In answer Jesus said, If you had knowledge of what God gives freely and who it is who says to you, Give me water, you would make your prayer to him, and he would give you living water. (11) The woman said to him, Sir, you have no vessel and the fountain is deep; from where will you get the living water? (12) Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the fountain and took the water of it himself, with his children and his cattle? (13) Jesus said to her, Everyone who takes this water will be in need of it again: (14) But whoever takes the water I give him will never be in need of drink again; for the water I give him will become in him a fountain of eternal life.

Ellen White comments with divine insight, "As Jesus spoke of the living water, the woman looked upon Him with wondering attention. He had aroused her interest, and awakened a desire for the gift of which He spoke. She perceived that it was not the water of Jacob's well to which He referred; for of this she used continually, drinking, and thirsting again. "Sir," she said, "give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw." {DA 187.4}

The conviction of the Spirit of God had come to the heart of the Samaritan woman. She believed that the words of Christ were the truth. No teaching that she had hitherto heard had aroused her moral nature, and awakened her to a sense of her higher need. {ST, April 22, 1897 par. 8}

Christ reads beneath the surface, and he revealed to the woman of Samaria her soul thirst, which the water from the well of Sychar could never satisfy. He himself lost all sense of hunger, and thirst, and weariness. His thirst was satisfied in seeing her drink of the water of life. He was rejoicing in spirit that his words had aroused her slumbering conscience, and quickened her spiritual perceptions. {ST, April 22, 1897 par. 9}

Now Jesus speaks again for he must not only satisfy her spiritual thirst for the occasion but teach her how to continuously satisfy that thirst resulting in worship that is spiritual and truthful.

Joh 4:16-18 ASV Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. (17) The woman answered and said unto him, I have no husband. Jesus saith unto her, Thou saidst well, I have no husband: (18) for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: this hast thou said truly.

The divine shepherd is here dealing with us now at this camp meeting listen to him speak and receive salvation. "Jesus now abruptly turned the conversation. Before this soul could receive the gift He longed to bestow, she must be brought to recognize her sin and her Saviour. He "saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither." (Don't we need to obey this command?) She answered, "I have no husband." Thus she hoped to prevent all questioning in that direction. But the Saviour continued, "Thou hast well said, I have no husband: for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly." {DA 187.5}

Consider this divine commentary which reveals the mind of the woman of Samaria. "The listener trembled. A mysterious hand was turning the pages of her life history, bringing to view that which she had hoped to keep forever hidden. Who was He that could read the secrets of her life? There came to her thoughts of eternity, of the future Judgment, when all that is now hidden shall be revealed. In its light, conscience was awakened. {DA 187.6}

Note her response in Joh 4:19 BBE The woman said to him, Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

Now note these inspired words from Ellen white, "She could deny nothing; but she tried to evade all mention of a subject so unwelcome. With deep reverence, she said, "Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet." Then, hoping to silence conviction, she turned to points of religious controversy. If this was a prophet, surely He could give her instruction concerning these matters that had been so long disputed."

With deep reverence the record says. Why did she respond with such reverence? The answer is she "perceive that Thou art a prophet." She perceived a divine presence and it brought forth reverence. Do I have that perception at and for worship? Oh how I need the divine Spirit.

Turning to points of religious controversy she continued Joh 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Joh 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father.

Joh 4:22 Ye worship that which ye know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers.

“He desired to lift the thoughts of His hearer above matters of form and ceremony, and questions of controversy. “The hour cometh,” He said, “and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” {DA 189.1} What is Jesus seeking to do with my thoughts today? He desires to lift the thoughts of His hearers above matters of form and ceremony. Will I let him? The woman of Samaria did and so can we. Then our reverence and worship will be higher and meaningful.

Here is declared the same truth that Jesus had revealed to Nicodemus when He said, “Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3, margin. Not by seeking a holy mountain or a sacred temple are men brought into communion with heaven. Religion is not to be confined to external forms and ceremonies. The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God. Wherever a soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit’s working is manifest, and God will reveal Himself to that soul. For such worshipers He is seeking. He waits to receive them, and to make them His sons and daughters. {DA 189.2} Will I let him?

Christ understands the needs of the world, and through him alone can the Father supply them. He is thirsting to give the needy souls the water of life freely. Christ is thirsting for the recognition of those for whom he left the courts of heaven, his honor, his glory, his royal throne, his high command. He is thirsting for the love, the cooperation that must be given him as their personal Saviour. He would have them come unto him, taking hold of his grace by faith, partaking of him, the Living Water. {ST, April 22, 1897 par. 10}

The natural thirst of the woman of Samaria had led her to a thirst of soul for the water of life

These divine revelations were written for our instruction understanding edification and sanctification.

I Jn 3:1-3 KJV Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. (2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (3) And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Now take these thoughts. 2Co 3:18 GW As all of us reflect the Lord’s glory with faces that are not covered with veils, we are being changed into his image with ever-increasing glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

A T Jones gives this thought, “In worship man always becomes conformed to the character of that which he worships. Whosoever worships God according to the word and in the thought God has revealed will worship him for what he is, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. He who worships God as being that, will by his worship become conformed in holiness of life

and character to the image of him who created him and when the man, in thus worshiping, shall have grown in mind and character unto that perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, then will be rent the dimming veil that is between, and we shall see him “face to face,” and shall know even as we are known. We shall know him then as he knows us now. Our knowledge then will be as full as God’s knowledge of us is now. p. 14, Para. 3, [REVGOD].

ICo 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And then even we ourselves shall be so far beyond what we are now, that it would be impossible for us now to conceive it, even if it were revealed. Therefore it is not revealed. And accordingly “it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” What we shall be doth not yet appear. But when this does appear, it will be that we shall be like him. Then it is perfectly plain that what he is like doth not yet appear. We cannot conceive what we ourselves shall be. Yet what we shall be is consequent entirely upon our seeing him as he is. It is perfectly plain then that we cannot possibly conceive him as he is, we cannot now see him with the mind’s eye, in any mental likeness, similitude, or image as he is. And to conceive him as he is not, and so to worship him, can be nothing but false worship. But he seeks true worshipers, and true worshipers worship him only in spirit and in truth. p. 15, Para. 1, [REVGOD].

In every situation we can worship him that made. 2Ti 3:10-11 ASV But thou didst follow my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, (11) persecutions, sufferings. What things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Even in a crisis the true worshippers will worship in spirit and in truth as Paul and Silas did as recorded in Act 16:22-25 ASV And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent their garments off them, and commanded to beat them with rods. (23) And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: (24) who, having received such a charge, cast them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. (25) But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns unto God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Even in fire and in a den of lions this kind of worship is victorious. Even lions would join and show reverence all night, there is no fear in love as shown by Daniel, Dan 6:5-10 ASV Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the interdict. (10) And when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house (now his windows were open in his chamber toward Jerusalem) and he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Dan 6:16 ASV Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. Dan 6:22 ASV My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

This kind of worship will be able to stand and shine through any crisis. God is gracious let us worship him in spirit and in truth it is the time.

Yours in worshipping him that made

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