

GOD SEEKS TRUE WORSHIPERS **(John 4:23-24)**

I. The absolute of Christian worship.

- A. The word “must” is a modifier.
- B. The Bible teaches that several things are a must.
 - 1. Faith is a must (Hebrews 11:6).
 - 2. Baptism is a must (Mark 16:16).
 - 3. Worship is a must (John 4:24).
- C. We cannot leave out the must of worship any more than we can leave out the must of faith or baptism.
- D. There are hardly any stronger words than must in our language.
- E. Must is heaven’s absolute.
 - 1. If you want to live you must breathe.
 - 2. If you want to live spiritually you must worship.
- F. The word must modifies three elements which make up our worship:
 - 1. It modifies the object of worship - Him, God.
 - 2. It modifies the attitude of worship - spirit.
 - 3. It modifies the standard of worship - truth.
- G. This tells us that the object, attitude and standard of worship are vital, they are a must.

II. The action of Christian worship.

- A. We must offer worship to God.
- B. Worship is defined as “courtesy or reverence to worth; hence honor and respect. An act of paying divine honors to deity; religious reverence or homage.”
- C. The word “worship” is translated from several different Greek words, three of which are used more than once.
 - 1. Proskuneo.
 - a. It occurs 60 times and is always translated worship and is found in our text.
 - b. Thayer defined it as: “to kiss the hand towards one; in token of reverence - to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence.”
 - 2. Sebomai.
 - a. It occurs 10 times in the New Testament.
 - b. It is defined as: “to stand in awe; to venerate, to reverence, to worship, to adore.”
 - 3. Latreuo.
 - a. It occurs 21 times in the New Testament, 17 times as service and four times as worship.
 - b. It is defined as: “To render religious service of homage; to worship God in the observance of rites instituted for worship.
- D. From these word studies it is clear that true worship demands participation.
 - 1. We are not to be spectators in worship but participants.

2. We are not the audience.

III. **The aim of Christian worship.**

- A. This verse teaches us that God is the aim of our worship.
- B. Not only that, the definitions noticed show that the aim of our worship is God.
 1. When people say, "I didn't get anything out of worship," they have a complete misunderstanding of worship.
 2. If we don't get anything out of it, we are not putting anything into it.
- C. Just because we show up for worship, doesn't mean we worshiped.
- D. Matthew 15:8; Isaiah 66:1-4.
- E. God is the sole object of our worship.
 1. He always has been, He always will be.
 2. Matthew 4:9-10.
- F. When we substitute what we like for what God commands in worship, then we have become the aim of worship and not God.
- G. God is the only aim of worship and this leaves out any other object.
 1. No angels.
 2. No pope.
 3. Nothing else.
- H. God is the audience in our worship.

IV. **The attitude of Christian worship.**

- A. We are to worship God in spirit.
- B. New Testament worship is spiritual in nature.
 1. We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5).
 2. Hebrews 10:22.
 3. It is to be offered with grace in our hearts to God (Colossians 3:17).
- C. Our worship must come from the heart.
 1. Ephesians 5:19.
 2. Colossians 3:16.
 3. Hebrews 12:28.
- D. I read "Dear Abby" last Saturday and she was asked a question about what is proper in worship.
 1. The questioner asked if it was proper to check social media or send texts during a sermon.
 2. Thankfully, she said it was completely improper to do either and said that was not the purpose of a worship service.
 3. Those texts and Facebook posts can wait.
 4. The latest exercise post or recipe post will still be on Pinterest when you get out of worship.
 5. It is completely disrespectful to engage in that type activity during the worship service because it shows our hearts are not in worship.
- E. How do we worship in spirit?
 1. We need to prepare our hearts before we come.
 2. We need to keep a worshipful atmosphere (Psalm 89:7; Habakkuk 2:20).
 3. Understand that God is present in our worship.

4. We need to put our hearts into it.
- V. The authority of Christians worship.**
- A. Everything we do in worship is to be governed by truth.
 - B. God's word is the truth (John 17:17; Colossians 3:17).
 - C. There is will, vain and ignorant worship which are all condemned.
 - D. The truth authorizes only five acts of worship:
 1. Singing (Ephesians 5:19).
 2. Praying (Acts 2:42).
 3. Preaching (Acts 20:7).
 4. Lord's supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20-30).
 5. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - E. This is all the acts of worship found in the New Testament and each must be carried out as God commands.

From an outline by Tom Moore