

## Biblical Principles of Worship – Part 1 God Desires Worship

This month, May, will begin a five part series on Biblical Principles of Worship. Previous newsletters have discussed several subtopics falling under the heading of “Worship”. This series will address some of the Bible’s basic teachings on worship. The presupposition here is that the Bible is God’s Word, it is infallible, inerrant, and complete. **God doesn’t say things because they are right ... they are right because God said it!** This month’s title is: “God Desires Worship.”

To be quite honest, God not only desires worship, He commands it! We see a vivid picture of this when Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well. She asks Jesus where the proper place of worship was. Jesus’ response was to lead her away from the location and toward the nature of worship itself. The location was not important as long as one engages in true, authentic worship.

John 4:19-24 (NIV)

*<sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

Picture this ... Jesus, standing on a mountaintop with Satan. He is promised the entire kingdom if He would simply kneel before him and worship Satan. Jesus directs him to Deuteronomy 6:13 as He speaks in Matthew 4:10 (NIV), “*Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’*”

John bows to the angel in Revelation 16:10. The angel told John not to worship him but, “Worship God!” The Biblical principle here is that God not only desires Worship of Him, we are commanded to do so through His Word!

Pre view:

- Part 2 – God alone is to be worshiped
- Part 3 – The worship of God is a mark of saving faith
- Part 4 – Worship is a corporate/individual activity
- Part 5 – God is not pleased with all worship

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