

"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"

CONCLUSION

Over the last 6 months we have examined God's attributes for the purpose of being able to worship Him in a greater and more personal way.

"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh"

(NKJV, Phi 3:3)

Through our study on God's Love, we learned that the revelation of His love is completed in Jesus Christ. Worshipping God is one of the things that we as Christians are called to do.

We praise God for what He has done, but we worship Him because of who He is.

Praise is the exhibiting of acknowledgement for something that is done. We can shower a child with praise for getting good grades in school. We can praise a firefighter for saving someone from a fire. On the other hand, worship is the demonstration of respect for who someone is. Some people "worship" celebrities simply because of who those celebrities are. Even if God did nothing for us, we would have to worship Him. We are to worship God simply because He **is** Almighty God. God is the only one **worthy** of our worship. The worship of God begins with the "Fear of God". Fear is not being afraid, but it is reverent respect.

Jesus changed the way we worship God

Before Jesus, those who wanted to worship Almighty God had to go to the temple in Jerusalem...if not regularly, at least once a year. Those who didn't or couldn't make the pilgrimage were looked down upon. Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well reveals that the rules for worshipping God have changed...

(NKJV, Joh 4:15-26), "[15] The woman said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.' [16] Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' [17] The woman answered and said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You have well said, 'I have no husband,' [18] for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.'

Conclusion

Bible Study: "To Know Him is to Love Him"

Although the woman didn't quite get what Jesus was talking about, she responded to Him truthfully. She admitted that she didn't have a husband. It's easy to be truthful when the truth is comfortable, but it is another matter when the truth is hard.

"[19] The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. [20] Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' [21] Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. [22] You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews."

Here Jesus is saying that there will no longer be specially designated places for worshiping God. He explains to the woman the difference between how she worships and how He (specifically, and the Jews in general) does. Knowledge of the one being worshiped is very important. This confirms the purpose and importance of this study series!

"[23] But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [24] God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.' [25] The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When He comes, He will tell us all things.' [26] Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He."

The woman knew about the Messiah and was awaiting His appearance...and knew that He would be God (note her reference to the attribute of omniscience). By inference we can see that she worshiped God on that mountain. She exhibited truth and spiritual awareness. Her heart was in the right place to receive what Jesus had said.

The foundational elements of worshiping God are spirit and truth. Having a greater knowledge of **who** God is, we have a better understanding of **why** we should worship Him. And finally, we know **how** we should worship Him. Now that we have this knowledge, we are accountable for it.

Group Discussion

- What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?
- What are some ways in which we worship God?