

Jesus
The Living Water Pt. 5
“Worshipping the Father”
John 4:13-26

- 13** Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,
- 14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
- 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.”
- 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.
- 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*.”

Introduction:

“During the past decade, much ink has been spilt in both professional and lay church literature over the topic of "how should we worship?" The popular term "worship wars" is unfortunately no great misnomer as congregations and some religious organizations have been split over the issue of liturgical style. On the local level this has often meant the death of long-established congregations, the rise of renegade groups which secede to form new congregations, or the schisming of communities based upon which worship service each member attends.”

Im sure you have seen it, Churches now offer a traditional and Contemporary Worship service. This has been and will be for sometime to come one of the most hotly debated subjects in the church.

What amazes me most about the whole debate is not whether there should be drums or praise bands, or the particular style of music.

But what gets my attention, is that so much time is spent on arguing for the dumbing down of the content of worship.

More and more, it seems that the goal, is simple, not complex, relational rather than doctrinal. decisional rather than didactic. More about the worshiper than the one worshiped. More about the guys on stage than the God in Heaven. More about the feeling rather than Father of Jesus Christ. More about what I can get from the service rather than give to it.

Along the way, while there has been so much said about the style of worship and what songs to use or not use in the church, has come the decentralization and minimization of the pulpit in worship. In many cases it comes last as far as the priority of worship.

Music, atmosphere and presentation are much more important

The problem is that your Worship is directly affected by the Quality of the Pulpit. The depth of the doctrine, the teaching and preaching have a direct affect on the depth of your worship

Shallow, relational preaching produces shallow self-centered worship.

Deep, Doctrinal, Expository, Confrontative preaching produces a depth of worship that cannot be attained through any other means.

“It should be clear to anyone who examines the subject carefully that modern church music, as a rule, is vastly inferior to the classic hymns that were being written 200 years ago. And incidentally, my own assessment is that the style in which music is written today isn’t really the biggest problem with contemporary music. Styles change. Bad church music isn’t bad just because it is “contemporary.” But the content of the lyrics is what reveals most graphically how low our standards have slipped.

The *biblically-mandated didactic role* of music is all but forgotten. The effect is predictable. What we have sown for several generations we are now reaping in frightening abundance. The modern church, fed on choruses with insipid lyrics, has no appetite for her own great tradition of didactic hymnody. We are in danger of losing a rich heritage as some of the best hymns of our faith fall into neglect and disuse, being replaced with banal lyrics set to catchy tunes. It is a crisis, and the church is suffering spiritually. Both pastors and church musicians need to see the severity of the crisis and work diligently for reform.”

Style or Substance JM
June 16, 2009 A261

“.....the minute a service is called “contemporary,” we have just conveyed, whether we like it or not, that the most important thing about it is the featured musical style. Yet what our worshipers ought to be most concerned about

is that the service is biblical in its elements and substance. In fact, **we often foster sin by encouraging the congregant to view himself as a consumer who has a right to expect the use of a particular musical style of his or her preference,** while simultaneously diverting his or her eyes from the most important thing: God and the elements or means He has appointed for engagement with Himself.....

The function of the order of service is not to draw attention to itself but to aid the soul's communion with God in the gathered company of the saints by serving to convey the Word of God to and from God, from and to His people.....

The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God.' This is why the great Baptist preacher Geoffrey Thomas can say that, in true worship, worshipers 'have little thought of the means of worship; their thoughts are upon God. True worship is characterized by self-effacement and is lacking in any self-consciousness.' That is, in biblical worship we so focus on God Himself and are so intent to acknowledge His inherent and unique worthiness that we are transfixed by Him. Thus worship is not about what we want or like (nor do His appointed means divert our eyes from Him), but rather it is about meeting with God and delighting in Him. Praise decentralizes self."

To worship God is the very core of a Christian's response; the very heart of a Christian's activity. And to worship is simply to recognize the worth, and the value, and the majesty, and the honor, and the glory of God. In fact, it comes from an old Anglo Saxon word *worthship*. The chief duty of every believer is to see the worth of God and to give Him the honor and the glory that is due His name. And as we saw in Psalm 45 verse 1, the word there referring to worship is one that means to boil over. And we saw that as our hearts are warmed with the knowledge of God, they become hot, they become impassioned, and the boiling over is worship.

in the United States alone, churches have about \$80 billion dollars' worth of buildings, \$80 billion dollars' worth of church buildings. I wonder with all of that facility with the intention of worshipping God, how much actual worship occurs. It's important for us to understand what the Bible teaches about worshipping God

Review:

The Perspective

The Perception

The Priority

The Person

The Perspective

- 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.”

The Perception

- 19** The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

The Priority

Lesson:

THE PRIORITY

- 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.
- 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.”

I. The Importance of Worship

A. Scripture is Saturated with it

1. Exodus 20
2. The Tabernacle Temple
3. Seraphim of Isa 6

4. Romans 12

5. I Peter 2:5

B. Eternal Destiny Depends on it.

Your Worship is either acceptable or unacceptable
How a person worships is indicative of their eternal
destiny.

Unacceptable Worship is defined as

1. Worship of a False God

The Bible is very clear that God does not accept the worship of false gods. God will not accept people into His kingdom, into His eternity, into His presence who worship other deities, whether they are deities of a religious nature or whether they are supernatural idols such as gold, and silver, and power, and prestige, and self. Anyone who worships false gods is excluded from entering into God's presence because that is unacceptable worship. He will not accept that, and thus will not accept the one who offers it.

People say, well, all those poor people over there worshipping their gods. They'll be all right in the end because they were sincere. No, they won't. It is unacceptable to God to worship a non-god because there is no other God, and God is a jealous God. And He will not tolerate the worship of another. He says, "My glory will I not give to another." And yet, the world worships false gods.

- 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,
- 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
- 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

The New King James Version. (1982). (Ro 1:21–24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

They turned to idols. Now listen, everybody worships somebody. Everybody worships somewhere. Even an atheist worships. Who does an atheist worship? Himself. He is ultimate. Everybody worships.

And when men reject God, they then, very often, will worship false gods. They'll concoct gods. And of course, this is that which God forbade in the first commandment, that there should be any other gods, but men do that. And basically there are several kinds, two kinds. The first is what you'd call material gods, or earthly gods. They are not specifically thought of as deities; men just worship the material world. I think this is wonderfully illustrated in the book of Job 31:24. "If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, 'Thou art mine confidence.'"

Mt 19:16–22

- 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"
- 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

- 18** He said to Him, “Which ones?”
Jesus said, “ ‘*You shall not murder,*’ ‘*You shall not commit adultery,*’ ‘*You shall not steal,*’ ‘*You shall not bear false witness,*’
- 19** ‘*Honor your father and your mother,*’ and, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’”
- 20** The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”
- 21** Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”
- 22** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

1 Worship of a False God

2. Worship of the True God in the Wrong Form

Worship of the true God is very specifically established in Scripture, and its mode and manner is equally specifically established. God will not accept worship offered to Him that is offered in an unacceptable manner. And an unacceptable manner is to reduce God to an image, to reduce God to a material representation, to reduce God to an idol, or to reduce God to anything that is the result and product of your own thinking. I

very often hear people say, “Well, God as I perceive Him to be is such and such, and such and such.” And if your definition of God does not square with the Word of God, then your worship is unacceptable even though you may identify it with the true God.

Now, if in your mind you think of God as an old man with a beard sitting in a chair, that’s bad. Somebody said, “Idolatry does not begin with a hammer, it begins with the mind.” And as you begin to conceive of God in improper terms, you will ultimately cause God to be made in improper terms. And the idolater who takes his hammer and his chisel and forms a god out of wood, forms the god that’s in his mind to begin with.

Dt 4:15–19

- 15** “Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,
- 16** lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,
- 17** the likeness of any animal that *is* on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,
- 18** the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that *is* in the water beneath the earth.
- 19** And *take heed*, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and *when* you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and

serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

Some of the worst forms of false worship are taking the true God and reducing Him to a image or form.

But Far worse, its to take the true God and reduce Him to a God that is not the proper Biblical Reflection of God. In other words, to have a unbiblical view of God. One that does not square with Holy Writ. To say God is less than Sovereign or that God is less than Holy, or that God is a Loving God who will not punish sin....is far from the God of Scripture

A.W. Pink wrote

“Let Scripture again make answer:

Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, He taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing ; and they are counted to Him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto Him? (Isa 40:15-18).

That is the God of Scripture; alas, He is still “the unknown God” (Acts 17:23) to the heedless multitudes.

It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: that bringeth the princes to nothing;

He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity (Isa 40:22,23).

How vastly different is the God of Scripture from the “god” of the average pulpit!

Of old, God complained to an apostate Israel, “Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself” (Psa 50:21). Such must now be His indictment against an apostate Christendom. Men imagine that the Most High is moved by sentiment, rather that actuated by principle. They suppose that His omnipotence is such an idle fiction that Satan is thwarting His designs on every side. They think that if He has formed any plan or purpose at all, then it must be like theirs, constantly subject to change. They openly declare that whatever power He possesses must be restricted, lest He invade the citadel of man’s “free will” and reduce him to a “machine.” They lower the all-efficacious atonement, which has actually redeemed everyone for whom it was made, to a mere “remedy,” which sin-sick souls may use if they feel disposed to; and they enervate the invincible work of the Holy Spirit to an “offer” of the Gospel which sinners may accept or reject as they please.

The “god” of this twentieth century no more resembles the Supreme Sovereign of Holy Writ than does the dim flickering of a candle the glory of the midday sun. The “god” who is now talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday School, mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day, and preached in most of the so-called Bible Conferences is the figment of human imagination, an invention of maudlin sentimentality. The heathen outside of the pale of Christendom form “gods” out of wood and stone, while

the millions of heathen inside Christendom manufacture a “god” out of their own carnal mind. In reality, they are but atheists, for there is no other possible alternative between an absolutely supreme God, and no God at all. A “god” whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, possesses no title to Deity, and so far from being a fit object of worship, merits naught but contempt.”

1 Worship of a False God

2. Worship of the True God in the Wrong Form

3. To Worship God in a Self Styled manner

Le 10:1–2

10:1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.

2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

9 “Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of

meeting, lest you die. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations,

God will not accept self-styled, self-invented modes of worship. We do not worship God on our terms but according to the terms of Scripture.

Then, there are lots of people in our society who think they worship God, and they have some self-invented way to do that. I always think about the lady in New Mexico who baked tortillas, Mrs. Rubio. And the Chicago Tribune recorded the story some years back, and one day she was frying a tortilla, and she took the tortilla out of the pan and she said with a great amount of shock, "It is the face of Jesus." Because burned on that tortilla were skillet burns that she said looked like Jesus. And so, she was so thrilled she showed it to her husband who agreed that it must be Jesus. And she showed it to her family and they agreed, and a neighbor and she agreed. And she went to her priest to have the tortilla blessed. And the priest, who had not really been accustomed to blessing tortillas, was somewhat reluctant to do so, but nevertheless he did it. And she took the tortilla home and she built an altar in her house. She put the tortilla in glass and put piles of cotton around it so it looked like Jesus floating on a cloud. And within a matter of months, Mrs. Rubio had over 8,000 people come to the shrine of the Jesus of the Tortilla. And everyone unanimously agreed that it

looked like Jesus except one reporter who said it looked to him like Leon Spinks. I really don't know where he was coming from, but that was his viewpoint. And so, she worshipped the tortilla and she wrote her testimony which is recorded in the Chicago Tribune, and said the tortilla had changed her life. And her husband agreed she'd been a more peaceful, happy, submissive wife ever since the tortilla had arrived.

Now, that is a stupid bizarre illustration. Little different honestly, little different than Nadab and Abihu. You don't worship God taking liberties, doing things your own way. You follow the instruction of Scripture.

2 Sa 6:1–7

Again David gathered all *the* choice *men* of Israel, thirty thousand.

- 2 And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim.
- 3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.
- 4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

- 5 Then David and all the house of Israel played *music* before the Lord on all kinds of *instruments of* fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.
- 6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand* to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.
- 7 Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his* error; and he died there by the ark of God.

Uzzah was a member of a group known as the Kohathites. And the Kohathites were the ones who transported the Ark of the Covenant. And from the time they were small, according to Numbers chapter 4, from the time they were raised, they were raised to know nothing but how to transport the Ark of the Covenant. And it was always to be done without anyone ever touching it. It had big rings on the side, and you slid poles through and carried it on your shoulders, and you never touched it. And that was what a Kohathite was raised to do, was to transport the ark. And Uzzah took the liberty to put it on a new cart, which he never should have done. God will not be handled at the whim of man. He will not be handled in a self-styled, manufactured way that comes out of man's own mind, no matter how good his intentions are. And so, the ark is put on a cart, it should never have been on the cart. And it's being transported. "And as it comes," in verse 6, "to Nachon's threshing floor," which is simply a geographical location, it bounced along and looked like it might fall off so, "Uzzah put his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was

kindled against Uzzah and God smote him there for his error; and he died by the ark of God.”

He knew better. He had been trained all his life that you do not touch the ark. But, in his own confident way, he thought he could intrude into God’s commandments. You cannot worship the true God in a self-styled way.

Mt 15:1–3

15:1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,

2 “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

3 He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?”

7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 *‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.*

9 *And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”*

Matt 23:23-28

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and

mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

- 24** Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!
- 25** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.
- 26** Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.
- 27** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness.
- 28** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Example of Self styled Worship

In 1717 there was a group that began, for all intents and purposes, known as the Masonic Lodge, or the Masons. While they do not wish to be known as a religion, they are, in fact, by definition, clearly a religion. And they are, I think, a classic illustration of unacceptable worship. The Iowa Quarterly Bulletin, way back in April of 1917, says this, and this is their own publication, quote: “Masonry is a divinely appointed institution, designed to draw men nearer to God, to give them a clearer conception of their proper relationship to God as their Heavenly Father, to men as their brethren and the ultimate destiny of the human soul.” End quote.

Now, that is a religion. Anything that says it’s a divinely appointed institution, designed to draw men nearer to God, to give them a

clear conception of their proper relationship to God, to men and the ultimate destiny of their human soul, that's a religion.

Masonry is a religion even though they don't want to admit it.

Now, do they worship God? They say they do. They say they worship God, they say they worship the true God in the true form, in the true manner, and with a true attitude. Albert Pike, who has been called by fellow Masons one of the most distinguished Masons the Western World has ever produced, has written one of their very important books called "Morals and Dogmas." It's so important that it appears in their edition of the Bible. They have their own Bible known as the Hertel's Bible. And this is what he has written: "Masonry reverences all the great reformers. It sees in Moses, the Lawgiver of the Jews; in Confucius and Zoroaster, in Jesus of Nazareth, and in the Arabian Iconoclast, great teachers of morality, and eminent reformers, if no more, and allows every brother of the Order to assign to each such higher and even divine character as his creed and truth require. We do not undervalue the importance of any Truth. We utter no word that can be deemed irreverent by anyone of any faith. We do not tell the Moslem that it is only important for him to believe that there is but one God, and wholly unessential whether Mahomet was His prophet. We do not tell the Hebrew that the Messiah whom he expects was born in Bethlehem nearly 2,000 ago; and he is a heretic because he will not so believe. And as little do we tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us, or His history, but the unreal revival of an older legend. To do either is beyond our jurisdiction. Masonry, of no one age, belongs to all time; of no one religion, it finds its great truths in all. To every Mason, there is a God; One Supreme, Infinite in Goodness, Wisdom, Foresight, Justice, and Benevolence; Creator, Disposer, and Preserver of all things. How, or by what intermediates He creates and acts, and in what way He unfolds and manifests Himself, Masonry leaves to creeds and religions to inquire." End quote.

In other words, they say they believe in God, but you can decide who He is, what He wants, and how to get to Him. And then, they

claim all these secret words and they are told that when they come into Masonry they're not allowed to speak certain words. And if you've known a Mason you may have known the fact that he would not reveal those words but I would like to reveal them this morning. The most sacred word that is given to the Master Mason when he stands at what they call the "five points of fellowship," he stands with the one who is initiating him into the Master's class, stands toe to toe, knee to knee, chest to chest, cheek to cheek, and mouth to ear, and is whispered into his ear, Ma-ha-bone. And that sacred word is supposed to be the name of God. In a different order of the Masons, they have another word, the Knights Templar, it is the word Jahbulon, and they say it is the divine Trinity. Jah, from Jehovah; Bul, from Baal; and On, from the name of the Egyptian sun god. Pike, in his "Morals and Dogmas," further says, "To achieve salvation the Mason must first attain a solid conviction founded upon reason, that he has within himself a spiritual nature, a soul that is not to die when the body is dissolved, but is to continue to exist and advance toward perfection through all the ages of eternity, and to see more and more clearly, as it draws nearer unto God, the light of the divine presence." End quote.

That's hocus-pocus meaning nothing, frankly. In the Mason's Bible it says: "In the opening of the lodge, the Great Architect of the Universe must be worshipped." That's what they say. The Great Architect of the Universe must be worshipped. And then, Pike says: "At the Masonic altar, the Christian, the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Brahmin, and the followers of Confucius and Zoroaster, can assemble as brethren and unite in prayer to the one God. The chaplain of the Masonic Lodge who prays as the voice of the lodge, does not pray in the name of the Carpenter of Nazareth, or the name of Jehovah, or the name of Allah. He prays to the Grand Artificer or the Great Architect of the Universe. Under that title, men of all faiths may find each other his own deity. Failure to mention any deity by name is not denial but merely the practice of a gracious courtesy, so that each man for

whom prayer is offered can hear the name of his own deity in the all-inclusive title of Great Architect.” End quote.

Well, I think you understand, that’s enough, frankly, to sicken anyone because that’s a Satanic false religion. It is unacceptable. And there are myriads of such unacceptable kinds of worship. And destiny is determined by that. You may think you’re worshipping God, but you’re not.

Acts 17, Mars Hill is a classic illustration, classic. They had an idol to the “unknown god.” And Paul says, “You’ve got the right idea, but you don’t know what you’re doing. You are worshipping in,” what? “Ignorance.” Now, let me tell you about Him. It does no good at all to worship God as you imagine Him to be.

It’s like they tell them in Alcoholics Anonymous, that you have to have a relationship with God as you perceive Him to be.

Listen, how you perceive Him to be doesn’t mean anything, only how He is in reality.

Unacceptable worship. It may be the flagrant, violent worship of money. It may be the creation of false deities, or it may be your worshipping supposedly the true God, but in an unacceptable manner, and thus you’re not worshipping Him at all.

1 Worship of a False God

2. Worship of the True God in the Wrong Form

3. To Worship God in a Self Styled manner

4. To Worship God with a Wrong Attitude

Mal 1:6–2:2

- 6 “A son honors *his* father,
And a servant *his* master.
If then I am the Father,
Where *is* My honor?
And if I *am* a Master,
Where *is* My reverence?
Says the Lord of hosts
To you priests who despise My name.
Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your
name?’
- 7 “You offer defiled food on My altar,
But say,
‘In what way have we defiled You?’
By saying,
‘The table of the Lord is contemptible.’
- 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice,
Is it not evil?
And when you offer the lame and sick,
Is it not evil?
Offer it then to your governor!

Would he be pleased with you?
Would he accept you favorably?”
Says the Lord of hosts.

9 “But now entreat God’s favor,
That He may be gracious to us.
While this is being *done* by your hands,
Will He accept you favorably?”
Says the Lord of hosts.

10 “Who *is there* even among you who would shut the
doors,
So that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain?
I have no pleasure in you,”
Says the Lord of hosts,
“Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

12 “But you profane it,
In that you say,
‘The table of the Lord is defiled;
And its fruit, its food, *is* contemptible.’

13 You also say,
‘Oh, what a weariness!’
And you sneer at it,”
Says the Lord of hosts.
“And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;
Thus you bring an offering!
Should I accept this from your hand?”
Says the Lord.

14 “But cursed *be* the deceiver
Who has in his flock a male,
And takes a vow,
But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—

For I *am* a great King,”
Says the Lord of hosts,
“And My name *is to be* feared among the nations.

- 2:1** “And now, O priests, this commandment is for you.
2 If you will not hear,
And if you will not take *it* to heart,
To give glory to My name,”
Says the Lord of hosts,
“I will send a curse upon you,
And I will curse your blessings.
Yes, I have cursed them already,
Because you do not take *it* to heart.

You see, the people of God had come to the place where they were worshipping the true God, in the true way, with the wrong attitude. Their hearts weren't in it. Now, just kind of look in your own heart. You say, I don't worship false gods. That's good. I worship the true God. And I haven't really reduced Him to some idol, some image, some statue. And I haven't sort of invented my own way of worship. I'm not sitting on a mountain contemplating my navel. I'm trying to do it by the book, do it by the Word of God. Then, ask yourself if your heart's in it. Ask do yourself if, when it comes time to give, do you give the best, the best of all you have. When it comes time to make your vows and your promises to God, do You make Him the promise that is the most reflective of magnanimity and generosity? Is your heart filled with awe and reverence? Because if it isn't, the stuff you're going through is pointless and unacceptable.

Amos 5:21-24

- 21** “I hate, I despise your feast days,
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.
- 22** Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings,
I will not accept *them*,
Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.
- 23** Take away from Me the noise of your songs,
For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.
- 24** But let justice run down like water,
And righteousness like a mighty stream.

Is 1:10–21

- Hear the word of the Lord,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the law of our God,
You people of Gomorrah:
- 11** “To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?”
Says the Lord.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle.
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
Or of lambs or goats.
- 12** “When you come to appear before Me,
Who has required this from your hand,
To trample My courts?
- 13** Bring no more futile sacrifices;

Incense is an abomination to Me.
The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of
assemblies—

I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts

My soul hates;

They are a trouble to Me,

I am weary of bearing *them*.

15 When you spread out your hands,

I will hide My eyes from you;

Even though you make many prayers,

I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

Mark 7: 6, and this is similar to what I saw earlier in
Matthew 15, but I just want to point it out to you
'cause I think it sums it up.

“He answered and said to them, ‘Well hath Isaiah
prophesied of you hypocrites,’ as it is written, ‘This
people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far
from Me.’” Their heart is far from Me. That is
unacceptable.

16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil,

17 Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor;
Defend the fatherless,

Plead for the widow.

- 18** “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the Lord,
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.
- 19** If you are willing and obedient,
You shall eat the good of the land;
- 20** But if you refuse and rebel,
You shall be devoured by the sword”;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Ps. 24:3-6

- 3** Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?
- 4** He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
Nor sworn deceitfully.
- 5** He shall receive blessing from the Lord,
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6** This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,
Who seek Your face.

Acceptable Worship