

Jesus
The Living Water Pt. 8
“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

William Tyndale enrolled at Oxford in 1505, and grew up at the University. He received his Master’s Degree in 1515 at the age of twenty-one! He proved to be a gifted linguist. One of Tyndale’s associates commented that Tyndale was “so skilled in eight languages – Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, English, and German, that whichever he speaks, you might think it his native tongue!”

Tyndale had a burning desire to get the truth of scripture in the hands of the average layperson.

A clergyman hopelessly entrenched in Roman Catholic dogma once taunted Tyndale with the

statement, “*We are better to be without God’s laws than the Pope’s*”. Tyndale was infuriated by such Roman Catholic heresies, and he replied, “*I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the scriptures than you!*”

who was strangled and then burned at the stake for translating the Bible out of Greek and Hebrew into the language of the people.

That was a great crime because it was gonna spell the demise of the Roman Catholic system if people could read the Bible they would know they weren't being told the truth. And so there was a lot at stake.

William Tyndale did as much as he could, he did the New Testament. And when he was martyred one of his disciples, a man whose name was John Rogers, actually he went under another name as a publisher to try and be under the radar a little bit, he finished the work. And the Tyndale Bible was originally produced in 1535. There were a number of copies of it in those years, for the next 15 years or so. Bloody Mary collected most of them and burned them. Tragic loss. I believe only 12 copies remained. When you stop to think about the fact that when Bibles were published at that time the letters were carved out of wood, they were put in a metal rack one letter at a time, a piece of paper was put on it and it was inked and then the paper was rolled. And that's what you did, one page at a time. Really a laborious effort to get the Word of God to the hands of the people.

One of the surviving Bibles has a wooden cover, bound in leather and it's got Tyndale's notes in the front. And he believed exactly the way we believe. There's a whole section on the fact that

salvation is a work of God, a gift of God, a grace gift, in fact every believer is a gift from the Father to the Son **and** no one can come unless the Father gives him to the Son. It's just sound theology **and** there's just page after page after page after page of these what they call Principle Matters of Scripture.

All of that to simply say that the Reformation came because the Bible came. Because the people got the Word in a language they could understand. **And** that is where the Great Reformation found its power. It was the power of the Word of God. **And** all those reformers were basically Bible expositors who explained the meaning of Scripture to people who had been in the dark through the whole of the Dark Ages up until about 1500.

One pastor
said the Reformation was overrated.

I wouldn't tell William Tyndale that **And** that is an absolutely absurd comment.

You cannot overrate the delivery of biblical **truth** to the world; to the German speaking world, to the French speaking world, to the English speaking world as well.

The Geneva Bible that came out of Geneva under the leadership of Calvin **and** Knox and some others was translated into those various languages. It's really that that has given us our heritage of the Christian faith so it is something to think back **and** to remember as an absolutely critical milestone in the work of the spirit **and** the world.

**This Great move of God opened the Truth to the World,
It plunged light into all the deep cracks and crevasses of the
Dark Ages**

**And liberated people to Worship God apart from some false
external Religion**

Lesson

Acceptable Worship

I. The Place of Worship

II. The Person of Worship

A. God is Spirit

B. God is Father

III. The Participants of Worship

A. In Salvation

v23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship (Future Active Indicative) the Father in spirit and truth; for **the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

B. In Spirit

v23 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.”

The two enemies of true worship are Gerizim and Jerusalem. You can't have one without the other or there's imbalance. Sincerity, that's great. Enthusiasm, that's great. Aggressive worship, that's great. But it must be based on truth. Truth, that's great. But if it doesn't issue in an eager, anxious, thrilled, and filled heart, it's missing. You so often have light without heat, or heat without light. Jesus says the Father seeks both,

But what about “spirit”? Is this our spirit or God's Spirit? Jesus's memorable statement in John 3:6 helps: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” It's not either-or, but both-and. For those who are new creatures in Christ, our spirit owes its existence and vibrancy to the Spirit of God. As John Piper writes, “True worship comes only from spirits made alive and sensitive by the quickening of the Spirit of God” (*Desiring God*, 82). God's Spirit ignites and energizes our spirit.

1 Sa 16:7

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Ps 51:15–17

- 15** O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
- 16** For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
- 17** The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

Mt 15:7–9

- 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,*

Dt 10:12

12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

Dt 30:6

6 And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

The New King James Version. (1982). (Dt 30:6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith,

In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses sets down for the Israelites how they are to love their God: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Our worship of God is directed by our love for Him; as we love, so we worship. Because the idea of “might” in Hebrew indicates totality, Jesus expanded this expression to “mind” and “strength” (Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27). To worship God in spirit and truth necessarily involves loving Him with heart, soul, mind and strength.

True worship must be “in spirit,” that is, engaging the whole heart. Unless there’s a real passion for God, there is no worship in spirit.

Al Martin. states

“Men have worshipped with open Bibles, and with the name of Christ, and the Bible on their lips, while whole congregations before them have been held in the grip of barrenness, and lifelessness, and powerlessness. Where it has been weeks, and months, and years, since hearts have been ravished with the sight of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ. Years since any hymn has been sung with abandonment. Years since a tear has trickled down the face of a worshipper. Years since a hallelujah flowed out of a bursting heart.”

He’s right. And we are guilty on that barren orthodox side of sitting here with our Bibles open, with all of the theology known, and indifferent to the spirit of worship.

C. In Truth

v23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true **worshippers 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.”

those who worship Him

Pres.Act Participle

Those who are the worshipping ones

must

dei: it is necessary

Original Word: δεῖ

Transliteration: dei

Phonetic Spelling: (die)

Short Definition: it is necessary, inevitable

Definition: it is necessary, inevitable; less frequently: it is a duty, what is proper.

1163 *deí* – properly, what *must* happen, i.e. what is *absolutely necessary* ("it *behooves* that . . .").

We are witnessing the disappearance of truth from our culture.

What Pilate said to Jesus 2000 yrs ago, “What is Truth” is now being shouted from the roof tops today.

We are seeing

1. The redefining of right and wrong
2. The removal of absolutes of morality
3. The complete sedation of sin
4. The redefining of Marriage
5. The removal of the boundaries that define a man and a woman (Princeton University removes “man” from its vocabulary)

This departure of the society from truth is a shock to all of us, but what should shock us more is the departure of the church from the truth.

The Devil came in the back door thru liberalism and seminaries that denied the truth of Scripture but many of the churches rejected out right the claims of Higher Criticism and liberalism. Thankfully we had men who

where theological sound to stand strong against this error.

But sadly the devil got thrown out the back door of the church only to walk around to the front door and come in a different way. Rather than deny the truth, why not redefine it. And that is exactly what he has done.

Along with this, the church has been complicit in its dumbing down of the truth. We are consistently removing the offensive theologically complex statements from our confessions and statements of belief of our churches, that eventually our statement of faith will be simply no more than the bumpersticker “I Believe” you can fill in the rest.

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – A.W. Tozer

Dr. Al Mohler

“Great biblical truths are meant not only for our intellectual acceptance, but for our spiritual health.”

More faulty information about God swirls around us today than ever before. No wonder so many followers of Christ are unsure of what they really believe in the face of the new spiritual openness attempting to alter unchanging truth. For centuries the church has taught and guarded the core Christian beliefs that make up the essential foundations of the faith. But in our postmodern age, sloppy teaching and

outright lies create rampant confusion, and many Christians are free-falling for “feel-good” theology. We need to know the truth to save ourselves from errors that will derail our faith.

At the same time, worship must be “in truth,” that is, properly informed. Unless we have knowledge of the God we worship, there is no worship in truth. Both are necessary for satisfying and God-honoring worship.

Spirit without truth leads to a shallow, overly emotional experience that could be compared to a high. As soon as the emotion is over, when the fervor cools, so does the worship.

Truth without spirit can result in a dry, passionless encounter that can easily lead to a form of joyless legalism. The best combination of both aspects of worship results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we appreciate Him. The more we appreciate, the deeper our worship. The deeper our worship, the more God is glorified.

This melding of spirit and truth in worship is best summed up by Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century American pastor and theologian.

He said, "I should think myself in the way of my duty to raise the affections [emotions] of my hearers as high as possibly I can, provided that they are affected with nothing but truth." Edwards recognized that truth and only truth can properly influence the emotions in a way that brings honor to God. The truth of God, being of infinite value, is worthy of infinite passion.

1. The Person of Truth

John 14:6

Jesus said, I am the way and the Truth and the Life

John 1:17

17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 18:37

For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Eph.4:20-21

- 20** But you have not so learned Christ,
21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

1 Jn 5:20

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Re 19:11

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

2. The Place of Truth**I Tim 3:15**

15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Acts 2:42

- 41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.
- 42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

3. The Priority of Truth

I Cor 14:

- 23** Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those who are* uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?
- 24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.
- 25** And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

4. The Purpose of Truth

1. Proclamation

2 Ti 4:1–6

4:1 I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

- 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- 3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

- 4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
- 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2. Protection

2 Tim 4;3

Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
- 4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
- 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Ac 20:27–31

- 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.
- 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,

to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch,

1 Pe 5:1–2

5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you

3. Preservation

Ga 1:6–9

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

- 8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
- 9** As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

2 Ti 2:24–26

- 24** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
- 25** in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
- 26** and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

4. Purity

Jn 17:17

- 17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Ps 119:9–11

- 9** How can a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed according to Your word.
- 10** With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
- 11** Your word I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

Eph 5:25–27

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

2 Th 2:13

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

Matt. 18:15

15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that *‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’*

- 17** And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.
- 18** “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
- 19** “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.
- 20** For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

5. The Practice of Truth

Jn 8:31–32

- 31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
- 32** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Jas 1:21–22

- 21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1 Pe 1:22

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Pe 2:1–2

2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,
2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

Christian worship engages both *heart* and *head*. It necessitates *true doctrine* about the Father and his Son, and their partnership in rescuing sinners, and *due emotion* about that doctrine. It is both an affair of the heart and an affair of the mind. Piper sums it up as “strong affections for God rooted in truth.”

Worship must be vital and real in the heart, and worship must rest on a true perception of God. There must be spirit and there must be truth. . . . Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full (or half-full) of artificial admirers On the other hand, emotion without

truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship. (81–82)

So the essence of true worship is not external, but internal — heart and head, emotion and thought, spirit and truth — whether we're talking all of life as worship (Romans 12:1) or corporate gatherings for worship.

Yet we're so prone to identify worship with the externals: how nice (or shabby) the building is, how many are in attendance, how good the music is, how gifted the preacher is, whether someone near us is doing something on their smartphone other than reading a Bible app or taking notes, or whether one of the worship leaders is waving a hand distractingly or doing those odd facial expressions or swaying or even jumping. (There's something to be said about "undistracting excellence" for those planning and leading worship services, but that's for another time.)

But while the external forms that our worship takes are not insignificant, they are not the essence. They don't make it, and they shouldn't break it. True worship is not centered on and coextensive with the forms, but flowing from the heart. Spirit and truth.

Lk 24:13–16

13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”