

THE ESSENTIALS FOR WORSHIP

Part Two
John 4:21-22

Introduction:

1. The Text

A) A Distinction (John 4:22)

> Notice the clarity and finality of Jesus' assessment

The Samaritans don't know what they worship – the “you” is plural

The Jews do know what they worship

This cannot mean that as long as you are a Jew and worship in Jerusalem God is pleased with your worship (John 2:13-16)

B) The Difference

> What the difference is not

It isn't that one of these groups has a good religious pedigree and the other doesn't

> What the difference is

God had chosen Jerusalem as the place where His Name would dwell (1 Kings 9:1-3)

The Jews had something that the Samaritans did not

The Samaritans only accepted the first five books of the Law as Scripture

The Jews had received and recognized the Law and the Prophets as Scripture (Deut 4:7-8; Romans 3:1-2)

Imagine how the knowledge of God and the worship of God would be deficient if you did not accept these revelations about God and worship (Job / Psalms 15 and 139 / Isaiah 1 and 6)

Imagine how your knowledge and worship of God would be deficient if you did not accept these prophecies concerning God's plan of redemption: (Isaiah 40:1-5 / Isaiah 53)

Imagine how our understanding of God and His plan of redemption would be different if we didn't acknowledge the New Testament as the Word of God?

Salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22c)

The Bible reveals God's plan of salvation (Rom 1:1-3; 2 Tim 3:14-15; Jn 5:36-40)

2. The Significance

A) When God reveals Himself and/or what He has done it evokes a response

> Some respond in rebellious idolatry

Satan and his demonic hosts

Sinful humanity (Romans 1:18-23)

> Some respond with apathetic indifference – the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-18)

> Some respond in worship

Manifested in humble reverence, awe, and respect (Joshua 5:13-15)

Manifested in joyful expressions of gratitude and praise (1 Tim 1:12-17)

Manifested in offering our whole selves as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1)

B) Knowing about and even believing in God does not guarantee acceptable worship

> The Samaritans had the Law yet they worshiped what they did not know

> The demons believe in God and tremble (James 2:19)

> Satan knew who Jesus was and tried to get Him to worship Satan (Matthew 4:8-11)

> The Jewish leaders knew the Scriptures but they didn't worship acceptably. (John 2:13-16)

* The Significance? Knowing God, as He has revealed Himself to us in the Scriptures, is necessary for worship.

Yet it is possible to know about Him and not worship Him.

C) Willful ignorance of God's revelation makes worship impossible

> What I don't mean

> What do I mean?

Willful ignorance is the distinguishing characteristic of those who have no desire to know more about God or His work of redemption

What is amazing about those who are willfully ignorant is that they still have a "theology" of worship – just like the Samaritans

Willful ignorance of who God is and what He has done leads to unacceptable worship.