

WHAT COULD I GIVE GOD FOR CHRISTMAS?

Worship Him in Spirit and Truth

John 4:23-24

Introduction:

1. “Who God is” is Foundational for Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth

A) “God is Spirit” is a description of God’s nature

> This is why God forbids making images of Him – He is Spirit

B) Jesus is making a fascinating statement

> God is spirit, yet He now stands before this Samaritan woman “in the flesh” (John 1:14)

> God is spirit, yet He has imaged Himself perfectly in Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15)

2. What “God has Done” Builds a Framework for Worship

A) The hour is coming and now is (John 4:23a)

> John’s use of this phrase (John 7:28-30; 17:1-5)

> This phrase, “is coming / now is” may appear to be an oxymoron

But the worthiness of Jesus’ sacrifice will be contingent upon His sinless life

> Jesus Christ came to redeem a people who would worship God acceptably (1 Peter 2:4-5)

3. God the Father is Seeking True Worshipers

A) What is a true worshiper (John 4:23)

> True – that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine.

> Worshiper – a person not a method

* A true worshiper is a person who genuinely worships the Father “in spirit and truth (John 4:23)

B) True worshipers who worship the Father “in spirit and truth?”

> What does this phrase mean?

Interpretation #1 – spirit refers to our spirit and truth refers to God’s revelation

What commends this interpretation?

God's being – He is Spirit

The context (John 4:21)

The potential of vain worship (Mark 7:5-7)

The nature of worship

Worship is our response to the wonderful truths about God revealed in creation and in His Word. (Psalm 19)

Worship is our response to the God the Redeemer (1 Tim 1:12-17)

Consider the necessary connection between the two

Two extremes that this interpretation corrects

Emotion only driven worship

Lifeless orthodoxy

Interpretation #2 – Spirit has a capital “S” and refers to the Holy Spirit and truth refers to God's Word – The written Word and the Incarnate Word.

The issue - There is no article before spirit in the original language, but that doesn't mean that this can't be “the” Spirit (John 1:1)

What commends this interpretation?

Jesus has come to baptize with the Spirit, something superior to John's baptism with water

Water from the well that satisfies a physical thirst (John 4:13)

Water that Jesus offers which satisfies a spiritual thirst (John 4:14)

The Holy Spirit uniquely enables the redeemed to worship God (Philippians 3:3)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and will guide us into all truth (John 16:13)

* In this second interpretation Jesus' focus is redemptive not practical

Only those who been born again can worship God acceptably.

You cannot genuinely worship someone that you don't know or love.

BUT you can and will want to revere, honor, adore, and praise, the God who has redeemed you and adopted you into His family – God the Father (John 4:23b)

* A true worshipper, to be genuine, must be born again and their worship, to be genuine, must come from their heart and be in accordance with and a response to the truth.

APPLICATION: If there are “true worshippers” then there must also be “not true worshippers”